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THE STARR REPORT

Inside: Full disclosure of the damning evidence which could bring down President Clinton



THE TIMES

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Impeach Clinton — Starr

President fights for his life

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

KENNETH STARR last night urged Congress to remove Bill Clinton from the presidency of the United States, accusing him of criminal misconduct in an explosive report that sets out in sensational detail the President's sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

Mr Starr accuses Mr Clinton of criminal misconduct in trying to cover up the affair, says he lied under oath before a grand jury, and that he "engaged in a pattern of conduct inconsistent with his constitutional duty to faithfully execute the laws" of the United States.

Among other details of a dozen sexual encounters, the report confirms the longstanding rumour that a stain on Monica Lewinsky's dark blue dress was caused by Mr Clinton's semen — the piece of evidence that finally forced the President to confess to the affair.

The Starr report says: "According to Ms Lewinsky, the President touched her breasts and genitalia". It says that their ten encounters included oral sex but not sexual intercourse. In the early stages of the affair, she says, the President would not let her perform oral sex "to completion" because of his "refusal to trust and not knowing her well enough."

The President called Monica "Sweetie", "Baby" and sometimes "dear", the report says. She told investigators that he used to lean against the door while she performed oral sex "to ease his back" and while he was having telephone conversations with people she believed were members of Congress.

She also said that Mr Clinton brought her to orgasm twice and she confided: "I never expected to find love with the President. I was surprised by the gifts."

Ms Lewinsky, in hiding in Washington yesterday, was said to be feeling suicidal and to be stricken with guilt over her testimony to Mr Starr, which provided the crucial details that could bring Mr Clinton down. "Harming him is the last thing in the world I wanted to do," she says in the Starr report.

But Mr Clinton — who yesterday made his first public apology to Ms Lewinsky and her family — is now facing the battle of his life, and last night he sent his lawyers into an immediate stringing counter-attack, accusing Mr Starr of deliberate entrapment, and of failing to prove any allegations in a four-year, \$40 million investigation. They also claim that Mr Starr has included salacious explicit de-

tails in his report merely to humiliate the President.

David Kendall, Mr Clinton's personal lawyer, said that the President had tried "to keep an inappropriate relationship private", and gave "misleading answers" when questioned under oath. But he had not committed perjury nor obstructed justice, nor done anything else to justify impeachment.

Just hours before the Starr report detonated on Capitol Hill, Mr Clinton gave the most extraordinary and personal speech ever delivered by an American President in an attempt to avoid having to resign in disgrace.

"I don't think there is a fancy way to say that I have sinned", he said in a choked voice to a breakfast of religious leaders. Calling himself "broken-spirited" and genuinely repentant, he called on Americans to forgive him.

For the first time, Mr Clinton made a direct apology to Ms Lewinsky, acknowledging that their affair had wrecked her life. "It is important to me that everybody who has been hurt know that the sorrow I feel is genuine — first and most important, my family, also my friends, my staff, my Cabinet, Monica Lewinsky and her family, and the American people," he said.

The ten-minute speech was a demonstration of the talent that made Bill Clinton's career: finding at the moment of crisis his most powerful, personal voice. But the White House is terrified that his appeal for forgiveness will be eclipsed by salacious details of sex play with a cigar on the President's desk and during telephone conversations with members of Congress.

Apart from recounting in detail sexual encounters between Mr Clinton and Ms Lewinsky in his study behind the Oval Office, it lists 11 grounds for impeachment. Those charges — including perjury, obstruction of justice and abuse of presidential power — threaten to make Mr Clinton the first president to face impeachment hearings since Richard Nixon resigned in 1974.

A lawyer close to the report has said: "It reads like a novel. It accuses the President of lying and lying and lying again."

The release of the report on the Internet yesterday afternoon triggered one of cyberspace's worst traffic jams as the world rushed to its computer keyboards to discover the details of the affair.

Mr Clinton's lawyer David Kendall has called the report "simply a collection of their



Mr Clinton at a service for victims of the American Embassy bombings yesterday

'To be forgiven, more than sorrow is required: genuine repentance and what my Bible calls a broken spirit'

contentions, claims and allegations" about the President's affair with Ms Lewinsky. He is looking forward to carrying out Mr Clinton's instruction "to mount a vigorous defence using all appropriate arguments".

In a 73-page preliminary statement, ahead of the report's publication, Mr Kendall said: "This private mistake does not amount to an impeachable action. The President's offences do not amount to criminal misconduct or to high crimes or misdemeanours." The document adds forcefully: "The President did not facilitate any help Ms Lewinsky received in get-

ting a job in the private sector." One of Mr Starr's most serious charges is that the President tried to buy her silence with a job.

Mr Kendall was racing yesterday to draft Mr Clinton's formal rebuttal, after Congress rejected his appeal for an advance copy. Henry Hyde, Republican Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, which will now begin debating the report in secret, said "The President knows what is in the report better than anyone on the planet". He accused the White House of wanting to "get the spin machine going" and to grab a public relations advantage. "He will have his people present during the executive sessions — the same courtesy extended to Mr Nixon — the same and no more," Mr Hyde said.

Humble pie for breakfast

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

TEARS welling in his eyes, and head bowed, Mr Clinton told America's religious leaders yesterday that he would pursue the path of humility and repentance with a "broken spirit".

Rising to the greatest crisis of his life with the most emotional and religious vocabulary he has ever deployed, Mr Clinton acknowledged that "I have sinned" and called for the nation's forgiveness.

But while the speech showed him at the height of his rhetorical power, Mr Clinton appeared desperate to show that the experience has chastened and changed him, and that it was not the facile, fluent words of the character dubbed "Slick Willie".

To spontaneous murmurings of "amen" and "yes sir", Mr Clinton said he understood that "I must have God's help to be the person that I want to be."

The annual prayer breakfast in the White House for 125 religious leaders has loomed for weeks as a forum where Mr Clinton would be confronted with his moral failings by public figures who have nothing to gain by standing by him.

Many religious leaders arrived at the White House under intense pressure from parishioners to condemn the President in order to hold up the nation's moral standards. The leader of the Southern Baptists, the denomination to which the President belongs, has condemned his behaviour.

Although Mr Clinton was enveloped by black-clothed bear hugs after he finished his speech, many religious leaders were still expected to take a cool view of his claim still to be the nation's moral leader.

Looking sombre and shaken, Mr Clinton did his best to satisfy criticism that he has not shown enough contrition.

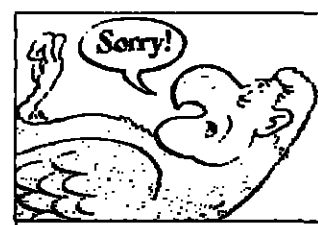
Stressing how the "journey of the last few weeks" had changed him profoundly, he said: "I may not be quite as easy with my words today as I have been in years past. I was up rather late last night thinking about and praying about what I ought to say today. And rather unusually for me, I actually tried to write it down."

The reading glasses he then perched on his nose are rarely seen in public, as the President normally relies on his fluency to improvise answers on the run. They added to the picture of frailty and physical failings. "To be forgiven, more than sorrow is required", he said. "At least two more things: genuine repentance, a determination to change and to repair breaches of my own making" and "what my Bible calls a broken spirit, an understanding that I must have God's help to be the person that I want to be."

He said he would seek "pastoral support" to "hold me accountable for my own commitment".

Although Mr Clinton pledged to fight vigorously, he emphasised that "legal language" must not obscure the fact that "I have done wrong". On an equally humble note, he thanked those who said that "the bounds of privacy have been excessively and unwisely invaded", but added: "In this case, it may be a blessing because I still sinned."

Hillary Clinton was present but did not speak publicly.



CLINTON AT BAY

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"It's Mick Jagger — he wants 20 years' retirement back pay"

Pop pensioners say they are too old at 35

By CHRIS AYRES

POP STARS are recognising that the pursuit of eternal youth is a vain quest and are lobbying the Inland Revenue to allow them to draw on their pensions at the age of 35 instead of 50.

A group of leading music industry accountants, thought to represent acts ranging from Simply Red to East 17, is proposing that pop stars should be treated in the same way as wrestlers, dancers and footballers.

The law currently allows professionals from these fields to draw on their personal pensions at the age of 35, thereby benefitting from various tax

breaks, because at that age their careers are considered to be effectively over.

If the rules were changed to include pop stars, Jarvis Cocker, the lead singer of Pulp, could start drawing on his pension next week, while Tracy Thorn of Everything But the Girl would already be a year past pensionable age. Noel Gallagher of Oasis would have only four years to wait.

An Inland Revenue official said: "Part of the problem is the definition of a pop music recording artist. Recording is not necessarily the only way pop stars can get earnings."

The reluctance to change the rules is highlighted by the success of the Rolling

Stones. The group's 54-year-old lead singer, Mick Jagger, is thought to be worth £140 million and is still raking in cash from world tours and record sales. His band, once famed for its wild excesses, recently refused to play in Britain because of changes to tax law.

Pop stars argue, however, that the Rolling Stones are an exception. The Association of Music Industry Accountants say that 62 per cent of the 1,133 artists who had albums in the Top 100 between 1988 and 1995, found their career fizzled out after just one year. Nine per cent enjoyed careers lasting between two and three years. The rest stayed in the limelight for more than five years.

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CLINTON AT BAY

'If only he had applied his mind to make Hillary valued emotionally and sexually'



The President must realise intellect is useless if you cannot educate yourself emotionally, writes Sandra Parsons

The Bill Clinton saga is moving inexorably towards what any woman who has ever been betrayed will recognise as a glorious ending. The most powerful man in the world, a man with an unusually gifted mind and an extraordinary sexual charisma, has shown himself to be fatally uneducated in the most important subject of all — emotional intelligence.

He is on course to achieve the complete alienation of the three most important women in his life: his wife, his daughter and his mistress.

Hillary, who is at least as intellectually capable as her husband, is concentrating on raising her profile to the maximum (her ratings have never been higher) in order to move smoothly into a political career in her own right when, as now seems inevitable, her husband is no longer President.

Their daughter, Chelsea, has gone back to Stamford to resume her medical studies and will surely take many years to forgive her father for his appalling betrayal and humiliation of her.

And Monica Lewinsky, his voluptuous, black-haired Nemesis, is turning in on herself in a frenzy of self-loathing so acute that her mother fears she may commit suicide.

How did it all go so wrong? After all, this was by no means Bill's first affair and previously he has always managed to get away with it. Adulterers, you see, often do — particularly when they are powerful. They rely on either buying-off, intimidating or demeaning their mistress to such an extent that when the affair is over she is either too scared or too humiliated (and often both) to do any public damage.

With Monica, Clinton seems to have plumped for the buying-off option, not in terms of money (her parents are wealthy) but in terms of love, the thing that to Monica matters more than any millions ever could. Foolish, foolish Bill appears to have allowed her to believe that he would one day leave Hillary for her. And then, when the going looked as though it was getting a little tough back in January this year, he made a deadly error: he openly showed his contempt of Monica, who loved him with her silly heart and soul, by referring to her on television as "that woman".

The sad truth is that, when it came to reading Monica, the most powerful man in the world might as well have never learned the alphabet. This is a girl who, when she heard Clinton refer to their relationship as a mistake, scrawled "I'm a mistake" in scarlet lipstick on her bathroom mirror and then, weeping, said: "I've been a mistake all my life. Nobody loves me." If Clinton had even a grain of that most desirable Nineties quality, emotional intelligence, he would have realised

that Monica was without doubt the most dangerous sort of woman with whom to have an affair. She is needy, desperate and utterly immature.

Clinton, of course, made the classic mistake of telling her that his wife was "cold and inadequate" in bed. What music that must have been to poor Monica's ears. She would provide what the First Lady could not. She would cavort with the Presidential cigar (on one occasion so delightfully, apparently, that an entranced Clinton kept Yassir Arafat waiting); she would dance so seductively as to make Salome and her seven veils seem prissy; she would raunch for the world when Bill (or Face, as she nicknamed him) rang her flat in the small hours to "talk dirty."

She was 14 when her parents divorced. Her father Bernard, a cancer specialist, moved out of the \$1.6 million Beverly Hills home, and he and Monica became estranged. Like many children of divorced parents, Monica had a terrible lack of self-confidence.

Women like Monica generally destroy the men they set their sights on and Clinton is no exception. What makes his blindness so interesting is the fact that he, more than anyone, ought to have understood what drives her. After all, he too is motivated by one overwhelming desire: to be loved. Admittedly, he played for bigger stakes, but basically Bill had he chosen to, really could have felt (and more importantly, understood) Monica's pain.

After all, he was the son of a philanderer father who desert-

When it came to reading Monica, the President might as well have never learnt the alphabet

ed the marriage early on, and a manipulative mother, Virginia, whose overriding concern in life was not to be a strong mother but to have a man (she married four times) who she always, and wrongly, imagined would help her block out life's unpleasantness.

Which brings us to Hillary. Marrying the plain but fearfully bright Yale Law student was probably the smartest thing, in emotional intelligence terms, that Bill Clinton ever did. It is a fair bet that Hillary's weakness is a lack of sexual confidence: the glossy, power-dressed First Lady is a recent phenomenon, and it is important to remember that for most of their marriage Hillary has been physically unattractive.

How, one wonders, might things have been different if Clinton had taken the trouble to boost his wife's physical and



Hillary Clinton waits outside the Oval Office in Washington this week as her husband, right, with Monica Lewinsky two years ago, speaks to the press about an airline strike



sexual ego? If he had applied his agile politician's mind to making his marriage work on every level? To making Hillary feel valued emotionally and sexually as well as for her brilliant analytical skills?

Unlike Monica, Hillary has long moved up and away from her husband in every direction except politically. She set aside her own career not just for her husband but for Chelsea, to whom she appears to have been the sort of maternal butress her husband and his mistress were denied. Doubtless she made a pact with herself years ago that although she could never satisfy her husband in bed, she could be a good mother and a formidable First Lady — and as long as Bill was discreet she would look the other way.

She famously stood by her man in 1992 over Gennifer Flowers, and when Bill told her six years later that Monica Lewinsky was lying and that there was nothing damaging to be revealed, she believed him. As a wife and as a mother she was therefore totally unprepared for the subsequent sordid turn of events. And for that she will never forgive him — although she will do all she can to ensure he sees out his Presidential term.

So what will happen to All The President's Women? Well, probably this: Monica will realise Bill is not worth dying for and will sell her story; Hillary will successfully further her own career; Chelsea will spend a long time hating the father she once revered.

And probably Bill Clinton, in common with countless other politicians and legions of the so-called great and the good, will fail to realise the simple truth: relationships are important; morals do matter. All the intellect in the world is useless if you cannot educate yourself emotionally.

Silent Lewinsky in grip of 'colossal depression'

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

AS President Clinton made his most profuse apology so far for his conduct, he singled out for yesterday one American by name. Unfortunately, his ap- peal to Monica Lewinsky for forgiveness may have come too late for either of them.

As she scurried to read the gory details of what she had said about their games in the Oval Office, Miss Lewinsky herself was out of sight and maintaining her vow of public silence. The woman about to confess could be about to bring down a President who believed to be in Washington, believed to be in Washington, believed to be in Washington, believed to be in Washington.

The former White House trainee, who sang to a friend and the special prosecutor about her relationship with Mr Clinton, is arguably the most famous woman in America just now, but almost nobody knows what her voice sounds like.

However, as members of Congress prepared to hear her, on tapes recorded by her former friend Linda Tripp that are among the material Ken-

eth Starr sent with his report, the President might be reflecting that if only he had apologised sooner, or, indeed, contacted her personally, the mess he is in would not be quite so unpleasant.

For it is understood that some of the most damaging evidence that Miss Lewinsky gave about their relationship came in her second appearance before the grand jury and in a further private session with Mr Starr.

They came after President Clinton's own evidence and his national television address that same day. His portrayal of his relationship with Miss Lewinsky as trifling dalliances hurt and angered her and it was then that she told Mr Starr that their relationship was more than that. It is this evidence that the independent prosecutor regarded as the key to his case that the President had committed perjury both in his evidence in the Paula Jones case and at his grand jury hearing.

If the President's dismissal of their relationship has landed him on the rack, one can

only imagine what it, and the resulting developments, have done to Miss Lewinsky. She was said yesterday by those close to her to be having "her ups and downs".

Her emotional torment is multilayered. She was clearly first intimidated and then in love with the President and appears to have believed, rightly or wrongly, that she might have had a future with him after his term in office. He seems to have been backing out of their relationship before the scandal broke and the tapes surreptitiously made by Ms Tripp are said to include passages in which she lambasts him furiously as "the big creep" and "schmucko".

But despite her anger, which led her to confess in greater, more damaging detail to Mr Starr, the burden of guilt after giving evidence against the man she had loved and who might consequently lose the most powerful job in the world, must be intolerable.

In the medium term she wants to return to California. She will find plenty of therapy couches there.



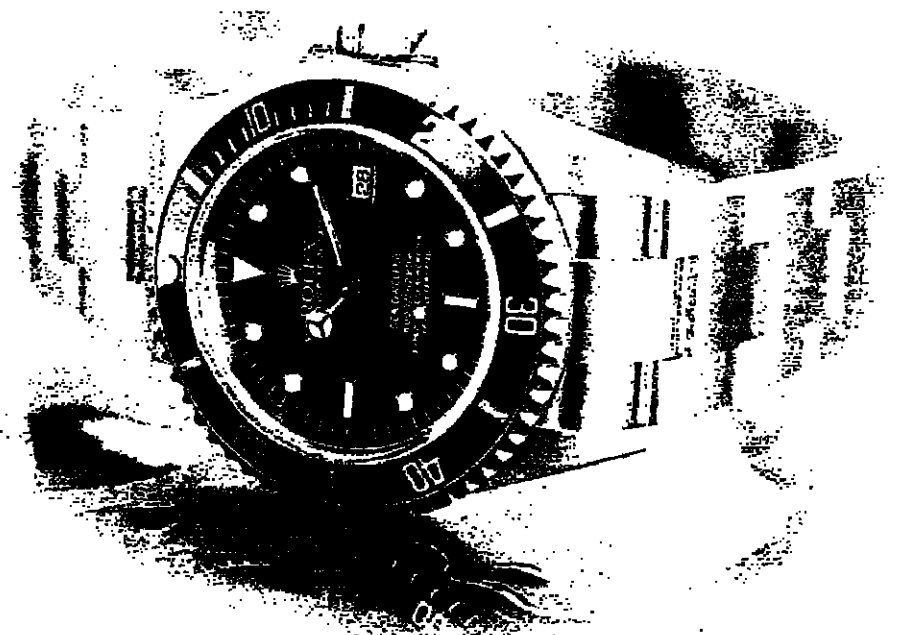
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CLINTON AT BAY

Middle America to be the final judge

President Clinton's fate is likely to hang in the end on what Middle America thinks of the seamy details of the Starr report. It will prove a test of the nation's conflicting impulses: whether it liberally forgives him as a philanthropist, or puritanically condemns him as a sexual pervert.



Tolerance seems to be gaining ground in a test of conflicting impulses, writes Bronwen Maddox in Washington

Washington is waiting to see whether Americans will take the worldly view — often dubbed "European" — that Mr Clinton and Ms Lewinsky were not the first couple in history to notice that certain everyday objects have a phallic shape, and to take advantage of this in their sexual play.

Mr Clinton's future is likely to hang on whether Americans can still consider him "one of them", or whether revelations about his behaviour have thrust him on the other side of the line dividing "normal" from "kinky".

He might take comfort from the fact that, as this saga has unfolded, and more details of the encounters between the President and the intern have leaked out, American tolerance appears to be winning over revulsion.

A rash of opinion polls last night confirmed that Americans were still inclined to forgive the President, and firmly opposed his impeachment or resignation. But most

want some kind of formal censure by Congress as a mark of the severity of the charges.

However, pollsters pointed out that the surveys were conducted before the details of the report were widely available. Parents who have spent weeks trying to work out whether — or how — to explain oral sex to their children will now be confronted with even trickier scenes involving cigars, telephones and the President's desk.

While the frenzy over the report is at its greatest in Washington, politicians are also waiting to see if Middle America will follow suit in a few weeks, for all its present apparent indifference. It is often observed that an issue which dominates chatter in the nation's capital appears to die away, only to reemerge with greater ferocity in the heartland after a disconcerting pause, taking many politicians by surprise.

The public's emotions were described yesterday as a "psychoic salad" of contradictions by one political commentator.

"I just can't see him ever having any credibility with any foreign leaders," said Lowell Davis, a Midwestern artist in Missouri. But others, like Yvonne Badillo, 38, in New Jersey, argue that "every man does it".

In the latest Gallup/CNN/USA Today poll, his job approval is holding steady at 60 per cent, down by only two points since September 1. The great majority — 63 per cent — say he should not be impeached, and 61 per cent say he should not resign. But 58 per cent would like to see the compromise solution — a formal censure by Congress.

Seven in 10 did not want the sexual details released.

A separate, detailed survey by *The Washington Post* found that the Lewinsky scandal had deepened Americans' convictions that their country was on a path of moral decay. Despite eight years of prosperity, many Americans feel that trends as varied as obesity, alcoholism, and homelessness are signs of degeneracy.

The Vice-President, Al Gore, and Hillary Clinton were

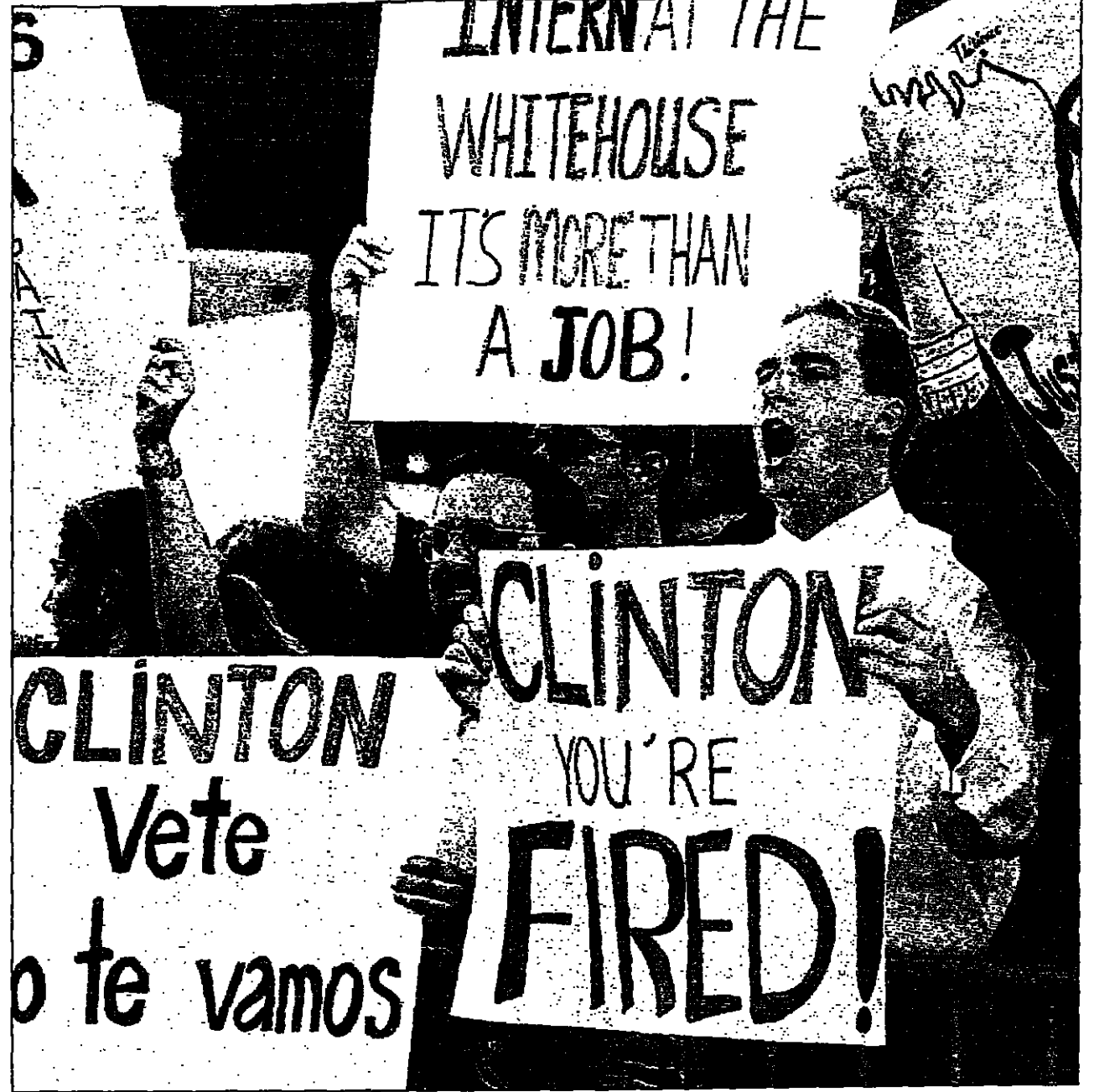
thought to embody more of ordinary American values than Mr Clinton. But in a blow for the House Speaker, Newt Gingrich, he ranked below even the President on the scale.

The survey found that nine out of ten Americans thought an affair by a married person was unacceptable. The figure was higher than for bearing a child outside marriage, smoking marijuana or same-sex marriage.

A worrying sign for Democrats in the November elections is that the percentage of Americans who say they trust the party to encourage "high moral standards and values" has fallen from 33 per cent in July, to 26 per cent last month.

Some reaction has even caused church rifts. R. Albert Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said that Mr Clinton's home church — Immanuel Baptist, in Little Rock — had an obligation to rebuke the President. "I would just say the church cannot be silent," Mr Mohler said. "That would be cowardice."

But Deacon Bob Gladden of Immanuel Baptist Church, said any sins by Mr Clinton were between the President and God. "We're not accountable to anybody as a church, but to the Lord," he said. "We resent all these people telling us how to run our business."



Protesters make their feelings known in Florida earlier this week. But opinion polls last night indicated that Americans were inclined to forgive the President and wanted him to avoid impeachment and stay in office

Memories of Nixon's end bring Wall Street fears of another slump

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

FEARS are spreading on Wall Street that President Clinton's problems will endanger American pensions and investments, just as the threat of a Nixon impeachment coincided with the last great economic slump.

Shops are already selling bumper stickers, irreplaceable signposts to the US zeitgeist — with the question: "Forget Paula Jones — how's Dow Jones?"

Answering irate calls from investors, brokers have blamed Asian and Russian turmoil in recent weeks. But the continuing market plunge this week is being linked in part to the President's problems.

Foreign investors, including many Britons, had moved their money into US shares, seeking shelter from the toppling so-called "Tiger" economies. Now they are reversing their decisions out of fear about the US economy and the strength of the dollar.

Peter Canelo, a stock market strategist at the investment bank Morgan Stanley, said: "I think the argument whether Clinton is important to the markets has been settled. It has caused a huge break in the dollar. For foreign investors that means a double whammy."

Britons pulling their money out of America now are hit by lower share prices and a worsening exchange rate.

Gregory Valliere, an analyst at Charles Schwab, a large brokerage said: "I have

gotten calls from foreign clients and they're started to hear the word impeachment."

Wall Street hates uncertainty like that experienced this week, when no official information is available and all carefully crafted analysis models become obsolete.

Reliable sources and good rumours become the only rising currencies. Liz Ann Sonders, a money manager in New York, said: "When you are in a period of uncertainty, and you have uncertainty in politics, it's just another black mark."

Wall Street is not particularly concerned about the personal fate of the President. Traders say they would prefer Mr Clinton to stay, but most important, the issue should be resolved quickly to end the

uncertainty. One trader said: "As far as my clients go, it doesn't matter who sits in the White House as long as the guy keeps quiet and doesn't interfere in our business."

Other Wall Street watchers, however, disagree that a quick departure by Mr Clinton would be beneficial. Al Gore, the Vice-President, has courted the environmentalist lobby for years and corporate chiefs worry that he could be more anti-business than Mr Clinton. This week Mr Gore cast a weary eye on the business world and said: "I think I have a very good relationship with the business community if you discount partisan politics."

His economic credentials are threadbare because he has kept out of the limelight whenever Mr Clinton addressed business issues. Wall Street has little idea of what he stands for or against, creating yet more uncertainty, Leslie Alperstein, an analyst at HSBC Markets, said: "Gore might have to choose a Vice-President. Who is that going to be?"

Older analysts have compared the situation to the slump in 1974 that was triggered by the oil crisis the year before but exacerbated by the Nixon resignation.

Between the election of 1972 and the President's resignation under threat of impeachment in 1974, the Dow Jones index fell almost 40 per cent. This summer, the Dow Jones fell close to 20 per cent.

ASIANs worry that the US presidential crisis could destabilize the world economy further. Russians have woe of their own. And some Frenchmen wonder why a leader might lose his office over a fling.

From Auckland to Amsterdam commentators and common folk gloomily watched the political drama surrounding President Clinton unfold on television, on the Internet and in the press as Congress voted yesterday to release the report by Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor.

"There is no doubt that a weakened presidency, its energy to deal with global issues sapped, is bad news for the world," an editorial in Singapore's *Straits Times* said.

"Even if Clinton survives, his presidency is already dead," wrote the Washington correspondent of the Italian daily *La Repubblica*. "The forecasts for autumn aren't good: tempest over Washington, rain on all of us." In

Australia, Mr Clinton's troubles knocked that country's national election campaign off the front pages of newspapers and formed the lead item of television and radio bulletins.

"Two dark vans that drove [the report] to the Capitol were akin to hearses arriving to take away the corpse of the Clinton presidency," wrote the US correspondent of *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

Some stood by the American President, despite the erosion of political support for Mr Clinton in America. Across Asia, Europe and the Middle East, newspapers and people expressed disbelief that Mr Clinton's extramarital sexual relations with Monica Lewinsky, and attempts to cover them up, should have so weakened what many regard as a successful presidency.

"The Clinton affair creates a climate of crisis in the world," the daily *Le Monde* said in a front-page headline. *Le Figaro* called the matter "a sad affair of sex in bad taste which goes

beyond anything one could have imagined".

In France, as in many other countries, the intimate lives of politicians are not newspaper fodder. Early on in the Clinton-Lewinsky affair, many French people considered the issue a private one. François Mitterrand, the late French President, had a wife and — an open secret — a lover and a daughter born out of wedlock before he became President.

In China, where the private lives of the secretive Communist Party leaders are off-limits, government-controlled reports on the scandal have been matter-of-fact.

Despite the official silence, Chinese leaders and foreign policy experts expressed concern that the crisis might imperil the rapprochement Mr Clinton and President Jiang Zemin symbolized in their recent summit in Beijing.

The Russian media almost ignored Washington, concentrating on the political woes of their own country. (AP)

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The trial by ordeal of Westminster organist

Dominic Kennedy on the bizarre staging of an appeal over the dismissal of abbey's outstanding musician

THE dean, the organist, his wife and their silks arrived in Downing Street yesterday for the climax of one of the most riveting disputes in the thousand years of Westminster Abbey.

Wesley Carr, the dean, is being forced to justify his dismissal of Martin Neary, who arranged the music for the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, over an obscure alleged financial irregularity.

Observers have compared the saga with the 19th-century novels of Anthony Trollope, who satirised churchmen and politicians in such works as *The Barsetshire Towers*. But even Gilbert and Sullivan would have blushed to construct a plot as farcical as that being unravelled behind the doors of the Privy Council's judicial chamber.

The origins of yesterday's secret hearing lie in Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries, including the Benedictine monastery at Westminster where all the kings of England had been crowned since 1066. Henry VIII made himself Visitor of the Abbey, in place of the Pope.

In 1560, Elizabeth I granted a charter laying down the abbey's constitution: dean, chapter and organist would be answerable only to her, as Visitor, rather than a bishop. The abbey, like a handful of churches, thus became a "Royal Peculiar".

Enter the modernising dean, appointed last year from

Bristol Cathedral. He sacked the unpaid volunteers aged over 70, introduced a £5 entrance fee to the nave, installed security cameras and ordered crowd control measures.

Organising the Princess's funeral service was one of his first duties. The music was arranged in three days by Dr Neary, 58, who in his ten years at Westminster has become recognised as one of the world's great church musicians. He wrung emotion out of his choirboys by telling them, just before the service, to imagine what it would be like if their mothers had died.

The Queen rewarded Dr Neary by making him a lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order in the New Year Honours.

But in March Dr Neary and his wife Penny were summoned to the abbey's private Jerusalem Chamber where Dr Carr suspended them from their duties for alleged financial irregularities.

Four days later, on Maundy Thursday, one of the most poignant dates on the church calendar, a disciplinary hearing was called. The Nearys were warned they could be dismissed. At this point, they consulted Cherie Booth, QC, the Prime Minister's wife and an employment law specialist. She advised seeking an injunction to halt the hearing but the dean called it off instead.

The Nearys were dismissed on April 22, their 31st wedding anniversary. Their salaries were stopped. Parents of choirboys were told that the abbey's auditors had discovered the existence of Neary Music Ltd which had "retained money for abbey events that did not belong to it".

Neary Music Ltd was a successor of the Neary Music Account, which was set up with the approval of the previous canon treasurer Colin Semper to receive fees for the choir's non-abbey musical activities, such as recordings, broadcasts and tours. It was changed into a limited company to satisfy the Nearys' accountants.

Because the abbey is a Royal Peculiar, the Nearys could not take their claim for unfair dismissal to the Church of England or an industrial tribunal. They had to petition the Queen.

Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, appointed Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, 73, to hear the case. Since there is no precedent, the rules have had to be made up by Lord Jauncey, with the agreement of both sides. They have decided to hold the hearing according to High Court rules.

The Nearys, who have an adult handicapped son, risk losing their large home in the shadow of Westminster Abbey. The wedding of the Nearys' daughter Nicola, which should have been held in the abbey, had to be moved to a parish church in Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

Shortly after dawn yesterday, a group of the Nearys' supporters gathered outside the cloisters for a silent protest. They marched on the 13th-century St Faith's Chapel, where the Dean and his canons gather daily for matins. Yesterday, five parents of choirboys — a circuit judge, a doctor, a barrister, an audio producer and the music co-ordinator at St Paul's Cathedral — plus one of their sisters, a 10-year-old girl, outnumbered the members of the chapter present.

The Dean sat in the front row, his knees and arms folded. The tiny group recited Psalm 7 ("God is a righteous judge... See how the ungodly conceives mischief) and Job 33 ("I am innocent," you said, "and free from offence, blameless and without guilt. Yet God finds occasions to put me in the wrong and counts me his enemy; he puts my feet in the stocks and keeps a close watch on all my conduct.")

The atmosphere at the abbey has become unbearable for many. Dame Ruth Railton, the musician and a benefactor of the choir school, has stopped worshipping there. "What we want is to save the abbey. Getting rid of the organist involved changing a very great part of abbey life."

Lord Jauncey, who is expected to make his decision in mid-October, is keeping his own counsel. "My lips are sealed," he told *The Times*. "It is a domestic tribunal."



Martin Neary and his wife Penny arriving for the hearing yesterday into his sacking



Two arrests over murder of Briton in Turkey

THE Turkish mother-in-law of a British woman murdered on holiday in Anatolia four years ago has been arrested after a hitman claimed that she hired him to carry out the killing.

Sinda Ozelebi, 32, from North London, disappeared on a day trip in August 1994 while travelling with her husband's mother, Nuran Yuceysoy. She was later found dead beneath bushes on the road to Istanbul, with multiple stab wounds to her body.

Her family offered a £1,000 reward after accusing Turkish police of failing to carry out a proper investigation. Although Mrs Yuceysoy was questioned, no one was arrested. Turgay Ozelebi, who stayed in Istanbul on the day his wife disappeared, did not attend her funeral and later returned to Britain with the couple's daughter, now aged seven.

Yesterday, however, Turkish police revealed that a suspect, Murat Cigir, had confessed to the crime and had claimed that Mrs Yuceysoy paid him £1,000. He described how he and an accomplice covered the victim's mouth, dragged her into bushes and stabbed her before tearing off her clothes to make it appear a sex killing.

Cigir alleges that Mrs Yuceysoy, 58, watched the murder and then whispered to him: "God bless you."

Seized yacht is sold for £150

AN AMATEUR sailor has had his £156,000 yacht seized by Moroccan customs officials, who sold it for £150 to one of their own men.

Graham Hutt, 51, had been living on the yacht, bought with his life savings, while he appealed against a conviction for smuggling Bibles into the country. Officers barred him from returning to the *Safwana*, moored at the port of Smir.

Dr Hutt said yesterday that police told him a court had confiscated the 50ft yacht and it had been sold for £150 to one of the officers who had come to value it.

He had been arrested and held for 48 hours in an underground cell after Bibles printed in Arabic were found at a friend's flat in Morocco. In June, a court at Tetouan described Dr Hutt, a father of four from Gosport, Hampshire, as a subversive for taking a bag of Bibles into the country.

It imposed a £26,000 fine and a two-month suspended jail sentence on him and four companions. A confiscation order was placed on the boat but was not expected to be executed pending an appeal.

Dr Hutt said from his base at Sotogrande in southern Spain: "It makes me so angry to think that I don't know where the boat is or if I will ever see it again."

Wilfred Wong, of the Jubilee Campaign, based at the Houses of Parliament, said: "It's a clear breach of human rights and smacks of appalling corruption. Dr Hutt is still awaiting his appeal and should not have his property confiscated even if he had committed the offence."

A Foreign Office spokeswoman said: "We are aware of Dr Hutt's case and as it is still the subject of court proceedings, we would not intervene. It is matter for his lawyer to sort out if there has been any problem with the courts."

The Moroccan Embassy in London declined to comment.

Police records inquiry

A DETECTIVE working for the National Criminal Intelligence Service has been suspended during investigations into the sale of criminal records to a journalist (Stewart Tendler writes).

Yesterday the service confirmed that investigations had begun earlier this year and a detective constable on secondment had been sent back to Hertfordshire police where he was suspended from duty. The allegations involve the sale of information drawn from the Police National Computer, which holds four million criminal records and lists of police intelligence material as well as details of wanted persons.

NCIS provides intelligence on upper echelons of British criminals and acts as a link between police and the Security Service.

Mrs Cook hopes to be luckier in love with her new Robin

PERHAPS it was curiosity that led Margaret Cook, the former wife of the Foreign Secretary, to choose a man called Robin with facial hair as a potential new partner.

Browsing through a clutch of personal profiles from Club Sirius, the £399-a-year national dating agency for professional singles, the coincidence must have struck her. Yesterday it emerged that her 28-year-old husband, Robin Cook, and their divorce in March, Mrs Cook, 53, has found a new man.

Robin Howie, a 60-year-old widower and retired company director living in Edinburgh, has been seeing Mrs Cook regularly since meeting her through Sirius.

Both, it is understood, joined the introduction agency recently and had dates with other members.

Apart from his name, moustache and two children, no other similarities between Mr Howie and Mr Cook are instantly apparent. Mr Howie is an athletic six-footer who enjoys mountaineering while



Margaret Cook joined an introduction agency

Mr Cook is diminutive in stature and listed his hobbies in *Who's Who* as "eating, reading, talking".

At his flat in Edinburgh's upmarket Braid's district, where a framed photograph of Mrs Cook adorns the coffee table, Mr Howie confirmed the couple had a relationship but fended off further questions saying: "I'm a gentleman and cannot comment."

Mr Howie, who is understood to have worked for Moray Firth Millings in Arbroath, has been divorced once. He retired from his job

to nurse his second wife, who died last year.

Mrs Cook, a consultant haematologist, was unavailable to comment yesterday but was expected to return this weekend from a holiday in Africa.

It is understood that she found the coincidence with the names amusing and asked: "What shall I call you, Robin I or Robin II?" Mr Howie replied: "Robin I."

According to friends Mr Cook is now referred to as "Robin zero".

Shortly after her husband left her for his secretary, Gaynor Regan, 41, Mrs Cook said she did not want to remarry as men in their fifties "collect problems, regress emotionally and need to be looked after".

Mrs Cook was dumped by her former husband in a VIP lounge at Heathrow Airport last August as they were about to fly to the US on holiday, because he had learnt that a newspaper was about to expose his affair.

Mr Cook married Gaynor Regan in April. He refused to comment on his former wife's new relationship.

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Britons chase peaks record

Is scaling the highest mountains in 47 countries folly, or a climbing epic? Stephen Farrell reports

In an eccentric challenge worthy of Phileas Fogg, two British mountaineers are criss-crossing Europe and Turkey in a race to climb the highest peaks in 47 states. Eamon Fullen and Rod Baber, who have never met or spoken, both went into the Guinness Book of Records after dreaming up the same idea and were told it would be a world first.

The 25,000-mile feat of endurance and logistics will take them from the sublime — Mont Blanc, Mount Ararat and two Mount Olympuses — to the ridiculously easy, a gentle Dutch incline 1,053ft above sea level, and the Pope's summer residence at Castel Gandolfo, outside Rome. The highest mountain is Mt Elbrus in Russia at 18,510ft and

the lowest point in Monaco at 531ft. The race is likely to be won by Fullen, 30, a Royal Navy diver and holder of the Queen's Gallantry Medal for rescuing three lorry drivers trapped inside an air-pocket in the Zeebrugge ferry disaster in 1987.

Slowly but surely, he has logged 45 of the 47 peaks during time off from naval duties since 1992. Even a heart attack in 1996 while 23,000ft up Mount Everest has failed to deter him, and next week he will set off in his Land Rover to bag the final two peaks — Shkhara in Georgia and Ararat in Turkey.

Coming up hard on the rails, however, is Baber, 27, a Telecom salesman from Fulham, west London, who had the same idea during a drunken night out with friends and has completed 32 ascents in four months.

Dismayed to find a rival already halfway through the challenge, he gained sponsorship from Sure deodorants, persuaded equipment manufacturers to provide ice-axes, tents and global satellite navigation equipment, and set off in May aiming to overtake Fullen, or at least set a speed record by completing it within 180 days.

Surprisingly, there is no trace of rancour between the two. Preparing this week, Fullen said: "I'm looking forward to Georgia. It's very tough, probably the hardest climb of the 47, and the most technically difficult, but I hope to get it done and then on to Ararat. Best wishes to Rod and his team, and I will be happy to give him and his team any help, once the challenge is in the bag."

Meanwhile, Baber, speaking from the foot of Monte Rosa in Switzerland, admits his original 180-day deadline will be missed because of an avalanche in Georgia, implacable Turkish border guards who denied him access to Ararat, and the civil war in Kosovo, which prevented the ascent of Yugoslavia's highest peak, Daravica.

Nevertheless, he hopes to complete the task within a year and cheerfully admits his family thinks he is "barking mad". So far he and his driver, Giles Pittman, have had to cope with falling into crevasses in Iceland, frozen satellite navigation equipment, racing motorised snowcats across cracking ice lakes in Finland, and a fire in their trailer wheels in Ukraine. He said



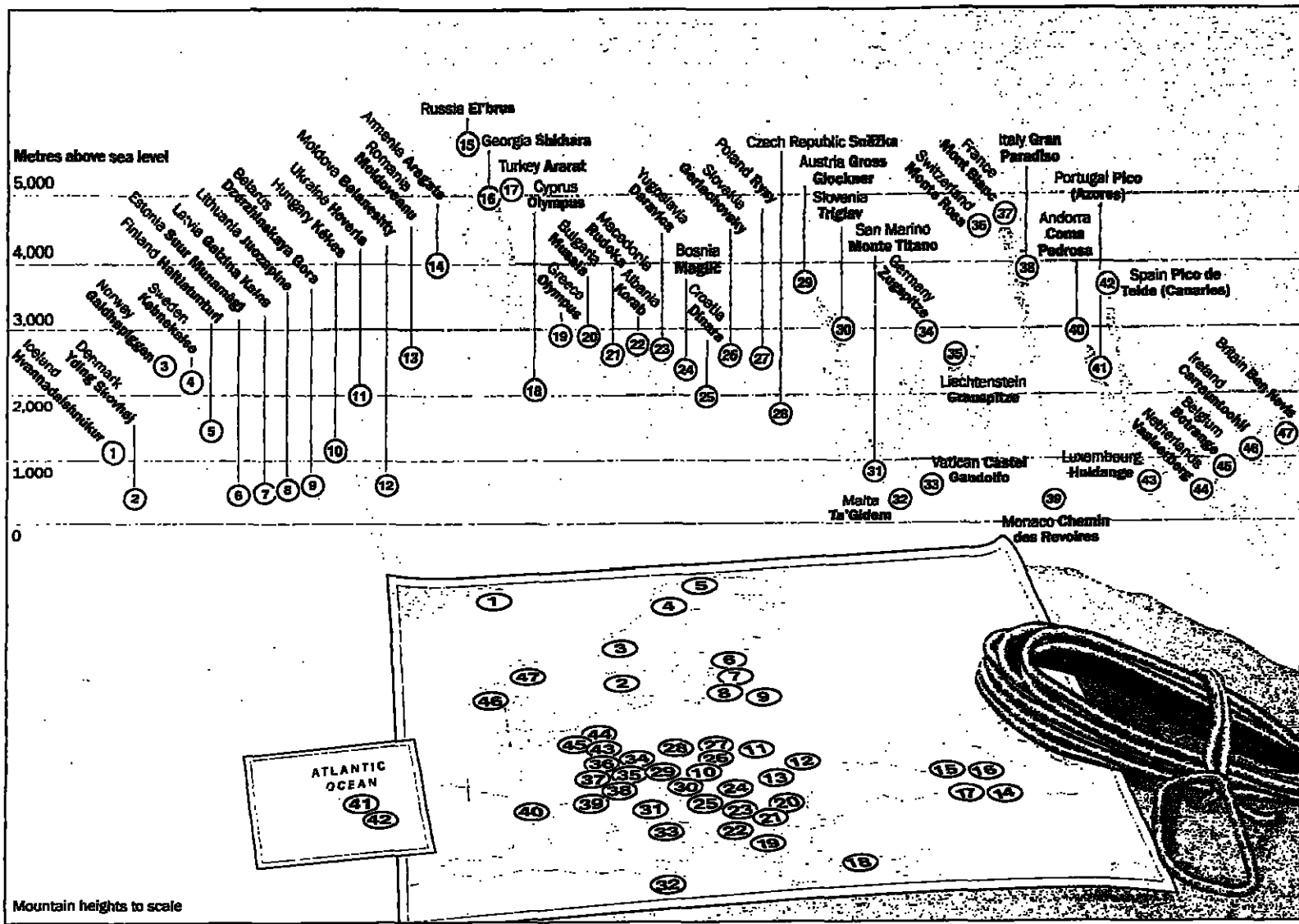
Fullen ticks Daravica, in Yugoslavia, off his list of mountains

yesterday: "Things are going very well. I'm exceptionally optimistic, but the two things you can't control are the weather and politics. You can't take on armed border patrols with a penknife."

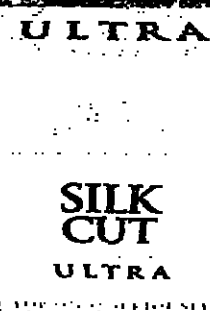
"I was annoyed when I found out Eamon was already halfway through. It would have been nice to be first and there is still that possibility, but even if he does get there I can set a new time. May the best man win."

The attempts are being monitored by Guinness Publishing's Keeper of the Records, Clive Carpenter, who spent days poring through atlases and encyclopaedias to draw up the complete list of peaks and rules.

The challengers are allowed to drive to a peak if it is crossed by roads normally open to traffic, but not to cut across country in vehicles. They may use cable-cars, ski-lifts and funicular railways, but not aircraft. Ascents must be recorded in a log book authenticated by at least one independent witness. They must take two photographs facing north, south, east and west on each summit with a camera which records dates and times.



Ultra Low



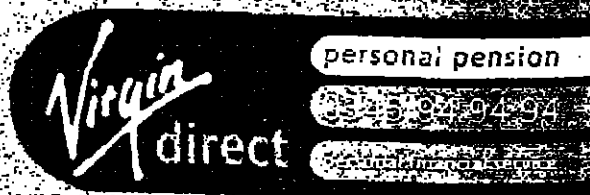
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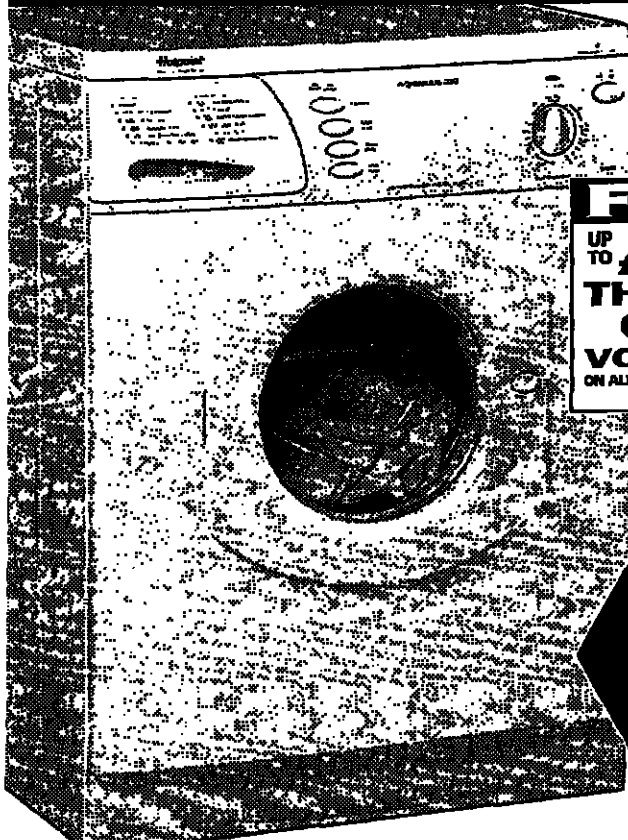
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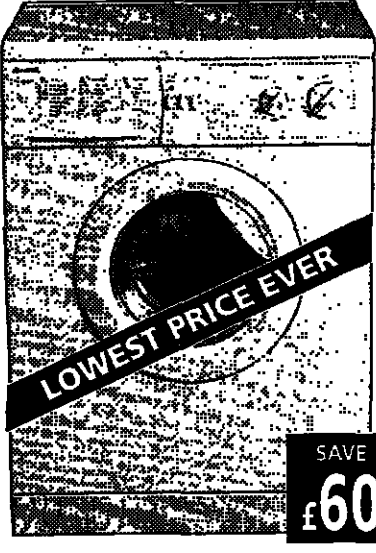
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HOTPOINT Full Size Dishwasher Model W121. Was £349.99. Was £349.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

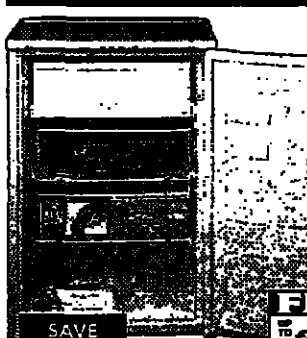
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LOWEST PRICE EVER
HOTPOINT 4.2 cu.ft. Upright Freezer Model W121. Was £219.99. Was £219.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

LOWEST PRICE EVER
NOVA SCOTIA 3.8 cu.ft. Chest Freezer Model W121. Was £129.99. Was £99.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

LOWEST PRICE EVER
HOTPOINT 4.1 cu.ft. Upright Freezer Model W121. Was £159.99. Was £159.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION*

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كردنا من الأهل

Pupils go native to learn French without tears

PUPILS at two English prep schools are learning French by spending an entire term at an early 19th-century chateau in the shadow of the Pyrenees. They eat, speak and live as French children, immersing themselves in the culture of the country.

Chateau de Sauveterre, once the home of a Romantic poet who reputedly fought for Napoleon against Wellington, is owned by Cothill House school in Oxford, which shares its facilities with Mowden Hall School near Corbridge, Northumberland. The 11-year-olds are taught all their lessons in French, except English and mathematics, learning the country's geography, history, music and religion.

Mike Spencer, of Mowden Hall, believes it is the best way to teach children a foreign language. He said: "At first they speak very little French, so they find the lessons difficult, but they are taught a range of subjects, along the lines of the French curriculum. We help them to learn by using a lot of pictures, charts, diagrams and pointing to make them understand. By the end of the term they are expected to be, and usually are, fully confident in understanding French and can speak it quite well."

The children spend 12 weeks in France, returning to England only for half-term. All costs of the scheme except airfares are met by the schools. Cothill's annual fees are £10,600 for boarders; Mowden Hall's are £9,045.

The 25-room chateau is 45 miles southwest of Toulouse, near two villages, Samatan and Combez, where the students attend festivals and fairs to experience French life. Mr Spencer said: "We do exchanges with the French schools; our children go to their school and they come to us for a while and the children soon make good friends. We invite local youngsters

Prep schools say term in a chateau is the best way to pick up a foreign language, writes Paul Wilkinson

to come around and play football or tennis or basketball, all in French, of course. Some French children come over on the weekends as well and we send our children out with French families."

Fred Wyrley-Birch, 11, from Gateshead, who has just started at the chateau, said: "I think I will enjoy it, but at the moment it is quite hard to understand the French."

Tom Flechia, 11, from Wiltshire, said: "It is really good here because we get to learn French, but it is more relaxing than normal school."

Chateaux became the ultimate independent school accessory in the early 1990s, when the first preparatory schools opened continental outposts. Riverston School, in South London, paid more than £500,000 for a base in Normandy not long after Cothill's excursion into the French property market. However, the rise in French house prices and a squeeze on private school costs prevented others from following suit.

Chateau de Sauveterre was built in 1820 for Jules de Resseguiet, who had planned a U-shape based on the Palace of Versailles. Construction began in 1820 but was never completed as the poet was called away to war and ran out of money. It stands as two long parallel buildings; the base of the U was never built.

Much of the furniture and some of the wallpaper date from that period, although it

was renovated to make it suitable for teaching when Cothill bought it two years ago. Lessons are held in the former stables.

Cothill House paid £400,000 for the chateau and has spent more converting it. Adrian Richardson, the headmaster, said: "Resseguiet was a French aristocrat and his wife furnished it herself. When we bought it, much of it had not been touched and we did our best to keep the atmosphere as it was."

"We have 50 pupils over there at the moment, the maximum amount we can take. The influence at the place is hugely French and they can't help but pick it up."

The Department for Education and Employment said: "We think it is a very good idea. We are keen to see more children involved with languages and this seems like a good and challenging way of doing it."



Andrew Ross, left, and Andrew Knight rehearsing in Hyde Park for the BBC's free Prom in the Park tonight, featuring the singer Montserrat Caballé

If it wasn't for the BBC,
the last night of the Proms
would have been
on the 16th of October, 1926.



In 1926 the BBC came to the aid of a popular but financially distressed, disabled music festival called the Henry Wood Promenade Concerts. Since then the Proms have flourished to become the most famous music festival in the world. Many of the great works have been specially commissioned. Edward Elgar's 3rd Symphony, for example, was commissioned by the BBC in 1922 but remained unfinished at his death in 1934. It was completed posthumously by Anthony Payne and was performed along with Elgar's other two symphonies, as part of this year's festival and broadcast live on Radio 3 and BBC Television. The BBC's commitment to new music continues today and, in addition to the 3rd Symphony, this Prom season also includes the new BBC commissions. It is worth for the BBC and the unique way you find it, these works may never have been performed. Come to listen as if they may never have been written. Tune in to this year's 'Last Night of the Proms' tonight, live from The Albert Hall on BBC Television, BBC Radio 3 and Great Proms in The Park on BBC Radio 2.



Chateau de Sauveterre: room for about 70 pupils

Thousands to benefit from GCSE recount

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

MORE than 6,000 teenagers will be given improved GCSE grades next week, after an examination board admitted errors in the calculation of marks for three subjects taken this summer.

The Northern Examinations and Assessment Board checked the results of 130,000 candidates after it found that a new computer program had produced faulty scores for some modular tests in science and humanities. The week-long review showed that about 5 per cent of candidates had been given the wrong grades.

Revised results were posted to schools yesterday. Peter Dawson, the board's assistant chief executive, said he hoped that the its prompt action would ensure that pupils' A-level choices and employment prospects would not be restricted.

The re-mark is thought to be the biggest undertaken by a

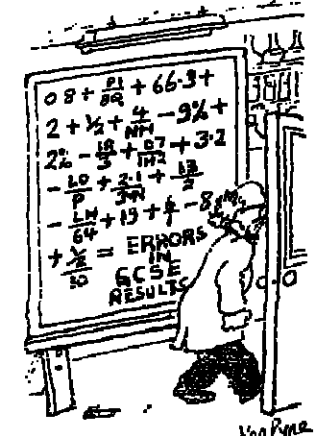
GCSE board. Most of the changes are improvements by one grade, but Mr Dawson said a small number of results had been raised by more than one because other mistakes had been detected.

More than two million candidates took the Manchester-based board's GCSE papers this summer, but only the modular courses were affected. About 108,000 took the double science course, 12,000 took the single science equivalent and 10,000 humanities.

The mistakes came to light during the appeals that followed last month's results. When assessment officers checked the marking they discovered inconsistencies in the scores awarded for modular tests taken part-way through the two-year courses.

The faulty programme was designed to convert marks from the tests into weighted scores used to calculate final grades. Mr Dawson said all grades were affected and some candidates whose entries had been unclassified would now be awarded a pass grade.

Among the schools waiting to hear yesterday whether their candidates would benefit was the Ridings School in Halifax, where 26 pupils had their marks recounted. Anna White, the head teacher, said the errors had been traumatic for those concerned. She added: "We couldn't understand how pupils we had put in for the higher level were coming back with unclassified results. We knew there was something wrong."



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Our activists are mad, says Labour organiser

Leaked memo from promoted aide has embarrassed soccer-loving MP, writes Philip Webster

A LABOUR MP was frantically trying to mend fences with his constituents and party members last night after his former aide suggested Arsenal had cared far more about Arsenal than about them, and that most Labour activists were "social misfits, rejects of society or mentally ill".

The remarks were in a leaked memo from Dominic McElroy, who has left his job as personal assistant to Iain Coleman, MP for Hammersmith and Fulham, for a new job organising European elections for the party's North and Yorkshire region. Labour has started an inquiry into Mr McElroy's behaviour.

A downcast Mr Coleman, 40, said he was "fed up and embarrassed" about the memo, which Mr McElroy wrote to the MP's new aide to prepare him for his duties. The note never reached its intended recipient, Andrew Jackson, but instead found its way to the press.

Mr Coleman, speaking in his constituency office, said it was "silly and immature" and should never have been written: "I had nothing to do with this memo and it was never shown to me. I have done nothing wrong."

Mr McElroy had advised his successor: "Iain will not miss any Arsenal games for whatever reason. Clear diary and use whatever excuse necessary. Childcare is a good



Coleman: called memo "silly and immature"

WHAT THE MP'S AIDE WROTE

Most active members of the Labour party are social misfits, rejects of society or mentally ill

Iain will not miss any Arsenal games for whatever reason. Clear diary and use whatever excuse necessary. Childcare is a good one, important vote at Commons (midweek games only) weddings, funerals, family events etc

one, important vote at House of Commons (midweek games only) weddings, funerals, family events etc etc.

Mr McElroy wrote that the diary was sent to Mr Coleman at home on a Friday afternoon so that his wife, Sally, could arrange baby-sitting. "If Sally requests any alterations that can be done (ie anything but cancelling a whip or an Arsenal game), just do it. It's easier in the long run."

Mr Coleman said: "This is the most worrying allegation of all - that somehow I put football fixtures before constituency and parliamentary duties. I have never tried to hide the fact that I am a fervent Arsenal fan. But both before I became an MP - I was leader of the council and Mayor of Hammersmith - and since, I

have missed matches because of duties. It is just not true."

Under the heading "constituency relations", Mr McElroy said that the secretary, Sue O'Neill, was "basically a good bureaucrat" but "very set in her ways, as you will find out." He advised: "The way I have dealt with her is to agree to absolutely everything she says and be pleasant."

His most wounding barbs were directed at the party members: "As you are probably aware, most active members of the Labour Party are social misfits, rejects of society or mentally ill. They will ring up and assume that anyone who is in the office runs the Hammersmith and Fulham Labour Party. The best way to deal with these people is to suggest they leave a message

these people are just timewasting. Get them to write in. Then a standard letter can be sent."

Mr Coleman said: "These were extremely foolish and unfair things to write. I must stress it is not my view but Dominic's. I think he was trying to be tongue-in-cheek and clearly does not believe this, but he should not have done it."

Mr Jackson was told how to claim Mr Coleman's expenses: "Each month two claim forms should be submitted to the Fees Office. The first is for Iain's Tube travel between the constituency and Westminster. There is an example of how to fill this in. Assume one return journey each working day but allow for recesses."

The other form is for car use. I am not very good at doing this one. All I can advise is that 350 miles of travel within the constituency can (and should) be claimed each month."

Mr Coleman said: "There is nothing improper here. I travel a lot more than 350 miles a month within the constituency. I do at least two or three surgeries a week, any number of school and other visits."

Mr McElroy could not be contacted yesterday. A party spokesman in London said: "We view this matter very seriously." Tony Blair has put huge store on recruiting more members.



Phoebe Turoczy, 9, the great-great-great-niece of the Czech composer Dvorak, is the newest and youngest member of the girls' choir at Wells Cathedral, Somerset

Dewar's relaunch exposes divisions in Scottish Labour

By Shirley English

DONALD DEWAR was facing a grassroots revolt yesterday as he unveiled his personal vision for post-devolution Scotland and pledged that, under Labour, the country would not be "walking out on Britain."

But what was meant to be a clarion call to the electorate on the first anniversary of the devolution referendum backfired when the Scottish Secretary's rebranding of the party as Scottish New Labour exposed old divisions in the party north of the border.

Angry MPs and party officials said they had not been consulted about the new logo, which was chosen after work with focus groups, and that it was an attempt to "change the party's name by stealth."

Yesterday Mr Dewar denied that he planned to change the party's name and insisted that traditional Scottish values of social justice and fighting poverty would be the foundations of Scottish New Labour.

"Scotland need not be, indeed it must not be, a prisoner of our past. The new age demands a new Scottish Labour Party," he said.

Symbolically, his mission statement, *A Lifetime of Opportunity*, was launched to his own constituents in Glasgow Anniesland at a community centre in a run-down estate rather than to journalists in a city-centre hotel. The document, which placed education at its heart, is understood to have been approved by Tony Blair and Gordon Brown in July. It will form the basis of the party's manifesto for May's Scottish parliament elections.

Calling Labour a "true



Dewar: MPs criticised his "unilateral" action

national party" and labelling the Government "a great reforming administration", Mr Dewar insisted: "We will not hesitate to walk our own way where it is right to do so and to take a different approach to Westminster. Labour offers Scotland the right to secure the benefits of independent decision-making; control of the sweep of our domestic affairs without the costs of walking out on Britain."

He said there would be Scottish solutions for Scottish problems. He also highlighted the pledges on land reform and the abolition of feudalism, nursery places for all three-year-olds and plans for community schools and community-based housing associations as distinctive Scottish policies that would not be found south of the border.

But yesterday members of the Scottish Executive said that they had not seen the document and could not discuss its contents until they received copies at their meeting in Glasgow today.

Objecting to the way the new campaign logo had been chosen, Bob Thomson, the

Scottish party's treasurer, said: "There is a general issue of democracy within the party. There was no discussion about this. It is a political mistake and my view is shared by the majority of activists and a substantial group on the executive."

Ian Davidson, MP for Glasgow Pollok, who was rejected as a potential Scottish parliament candidate, said the change had been imposed unilaterally. "This came about from work with focus groups. Will the party now be expecting the same focus groups to put up posters and deliver leaflets at the next election?"

Labour and the SNP are deadlocked in the polls and the party's decision to focus on Mr Dewar's personal vision was seen as a major vote of confidence in the Scottish Secretary, whose leadership has been questioned after a series of sleaze-related public relations disasters.

In a recent NOP poll for *The Sunday Times*, 44 per cent of voters said Alex Salmond, leader of the SNP, would make the best first minister in the new parliament, compared with 40 per cent for Mr Dewar.

Yesterday the Tories labelled Mr Dewar's vision statement "another set of phony promises for Labour to break at the first opportunity". The SNP said it was the fifth relaunch Labour had had in Scotland.

Mr Dewar will be formally chosen as first minister-elect by the Scottish party next Saturday. He is standing unopposed. It is understood some Scottish MPs withheld their nominations in protest at his "coronation" as party leader.

Queen goes shopping to show common touch

By James Landale
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Queen heads for Brunei and Malaysia next week in the first of a series of new-style state visits in which she will meet more ordinary people and fewer dignitaries. Her itinerary will include shopping malls, health centres, fruit markets and a recording studio.

Buckingham Palace said that the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were keen to see as much of ordinary daily life as possible in the two countries. To our minds, that's something different," a spokesman said.

The Queen, who will also attend the Commonwealth

Games in Malaysia, will be accompanied by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and his wife Gaynor, who will be travelling with her husband on her first big foreign trip.

The Palace and the Foreign Office are keen to avoid the public relations and diplomatic disaster of last year's state visit to India and Pakistan. The Queen caused a row after hinting in a speech that the two countries should put aside their differences and Mr Cook provoked fury by reportedly suggesting that he could mediate over Kashmir. For the first time, Mr Cook will be accompanied by a senior press officer.

The Palace said that the

trip would show support for the two countries at the height of the Asian financial crisis. "We want to show how much we value links at a time of economic difficulties and how Britain is no fair-weather friend," the spokesman said.

The Queen, who leaves on Thursday, will spend three days in Brunei. She is expected to visit a mosque, requiring her to take off her shoes and to cover her head, and to see a "water village", where houses stand on stilts. She will spend four days in Malaysia, where she will visit the Petronas Twin Towers, the tallest building in the world.

Leading article, page 29

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NEXT WEEK IN THE TIMES

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'So cruel, living with Alzheimer's'

LOOK SMART SPEND LESS

ALAN CLARK Do the Tories have a future?

London's streets paved with gold by passing cars

A LATTER-DAY Dick Whittington would find the streets of London - and all British cities - paved with gold, platinum and other precious metals. The metals are coming off catalytic converters fitted to cars and are deposited by exhaust fumes. Levels are rising so fast as the number of cars with converters increases that it will soon make economic sense to pan the deposits like the Klondyke miners of old, a scientist said yesterday. Hazel Prichard, a geologist from Cardiff University, told the British Association: "The levels of platinum, which is worth more than gold, are quite high... we are approaching economic levels." Dr Prichard used her domestic dustpan and brush to take measurements of roadside and pavement dust levels at roundabouts in Cardiff - surprising passers-by. "I got out at half-past six in my black BMW on a Sunday morning when I thought there would be little traffic around. I took out my dustpan and brush and when I looked up there were two paper boys looking at me in utter amazement. We've got a mad woman here," she recalled. At 8.15am she was spotted by a lady walking her dog. "She could not believe her eyes. Someone sweeping the road furiously." She said the highest levels of precious metals were found in the "posh area" of Cyncoed where there are more new cars, which must be fitted with catalysis. Dr Prichard found that concentrations in the dust were up to 126 parts per billion for platinum, 99 for palladium and 22 for rhodium, with trace amounts of gold. The natural background, level for platinum in Britain is less than one part per billion. But the scientist said when the dust was refined - using a method that mimics gold panning in a stream - to discard the light dust particles, concentrations leapt tenfold. Dr Prichard recorded concentrations of 1,679 parts per billion for platinum, 2,945 for palladium, 272 for gold and 220 for rhodium. The levels almost exactly reflect the ratios of the metals used in the manufacture of catalytic converters. She said platinum, which is mined in South Africa and northern Siberia with around a third of the output going into the converters, becomes economic at around 4,000 parts per billion. "Catalysts have been around only since the 1930s here in Britain. If it goes on building up at this rate we will be able to recycle it," Dr Prichard said. Gold is valued at about £165 an ounce, platinum £210 an ounce, and palladium more. Dr Prichard said that whereas mining companies get around 1oz of platinum per ten tonnes of material, the roadside metals did not need expensive crushing. Once the "fag ends" had been sifted out and the dust separated it would be possible to smelt what was left with nickel sulphide to make platinum beads. The scientist suggested that one way of collecting the dust might be to visit sites where road sweepers dump their waste. Some of the metals can also be found in Cardiff Bay, where the River Taff meets the sea, after being washed down the drains. Dr Prichard, who normally studies precious metals in rocks from South Africa to the



Roadside gold mine: Hazel Prichard found precious metals left by catalytic converters

Sheldons, said little was known about the effects of platinum and other metals in the environment and its impact on human health. Most people consider the metal, which is used to reduce emissions from cars, to be benign, immobile and not particularly reactive. But the scientist said it can oxidise, which makes it easier for it to move around in the environment. "It does get into plants and bodies. But as for the effects, we do not know." Some researchers have suggested that the dusts of precious metals are part of a mixture of tiny particulates in the air. These come from man-made sources such as soot emitted by diesel engines and natural sources such as sea spray, and lodge in the lungs where they cause breathing problems. It is also claimed that they can trigger heart attacks in the unwell or old by causing the blood to thicken.

Triple-jab fall could cause rise in measles

THE number of children getting the triple vaccine against measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) has fallen to a level where outbreaks of measles can be expected in a few years' time, the British Association was told yesterday. Roland Salmon, of the Public Health Laboratory Service, said surveys had shown that the uptake of the vaccine had fallen to about 85 per cent. This follows a report from researchers at the Royal Free Hospital in London suggesting that the triple vaccine may be linked to autism and a bowel disorder. "If this persists up to school age, we can expect measles outbreaks to occur when children start mixing with others of their own age," Dr Salmon said. "And if it persists up to the age when unvaccinated women start to have babies, we see cases of rubella syndrome." This is the condition in which babies born to women who catch measles during pregnancy are deaf, blind, and have heart defects. Julius Weinberg, also of the PHLS, said that the danger was of going back to the situation in which about 50 babies a year were born with the condition. "Our view is that the triple vaccine is the best way of controlling these diseases and we hope that more mothers will bring their babies for vaccination." Ethical investors are not quite as ethical as they may appear. Alan Lewis, of the University of Bath, discovered that only a fifth of 1,100 ethical investors he consulted insisted that all their money be put in companies whose environmental, moral and ethical precepts they agreed with.

Professor warns on dangers of psychology

MOST modern psychology is junk science that tells people nothing they did not already know and can be dangerous to those it claims to help, a psychologist told the meeting. Ian Parker, based at the Bolton Institute in Lancashire, said: "The use of psychology ranges from the nonsense peddled in advice columns and chat shows in the name of 'science' to the formalising of patients subjected to drug treatments or electroshock." Professor Parker said there was now growing alarm and dissent inside the profession reflecting the suspicions and worries of lay people. "An increasing number of academics and professionals are complaining that psychological theory and practice is so banal as to be useless except to a specialist in-group of scientists." He described the first stirrings of a movement of academics worldwide to drive new and more enlightened thinking into the profession. He said a movement, called the "critical psychology" movement, had formed to fight banality and misuse in psychological theory. The Psychology Politics Resistance, a network of 500 researchers worldwide, was helping to spearhead this reform. Professor Parker, a leading light in the movement, said that more critical academic courses were needed to further the challenge to mainstream psychology alongside the development of victim support groups "speaking out against the abuse of power by psychologists."

Rabbi finds synagogue of rare beauty

THE public has been told that the synagogue in the North East of England is one of the most beautiful in the country. The building, which was designed by the architect Sir John Lubbock, is a masterpiece of the Arts and Crafts movement. It is a rare example of a synagogue designed in the style of a medieval castle. The building is made of red brick and has a tower with a clock face. It is surrounded by a wall and has a gate. The interior is also beautiful, with a high ceiling and a large chandelier. The Rabbi has been very impressed with the building and has said that it is a true gem of the North East.

Don't judge liars on body language

STEREOTYPED views of how people behave when they lie may be holding back criminal investigations, new research presented to the British Psychological Society has found. The belief that liars fidget, stutter and avoid eye contact is widespread among the police even though academic research has discredited such signals as indicators of lying. Aldert Vrij, Reader in Applied Social Psychology at Portsmouth University, told the Society's criminology conference in Durham yesterday. In fact, practised liars often behave in the opposite way and appear unnaturally calm, making fewer gestures and giving a rehearsed and rigid impression to onlookers, Dr Vrij said. Police misconceptions about lying led many officers to overestimate their ability to detect lies and hampered investigations. A study comparing officers and students found that neither group was better at spotting lies. Contrary to popular belief, people who are lying slow down to think about their answers, using fewer gestures and maintaining eye contact as they concentrate on putting together a plausible falsehood. Laboratory studies of behaviour while lying demonstrate this effect. Dr Vrij's team recently studied a convicted murderer's police interview, where they knew categorically which answers were truthful and which were lies. "When he was lying he made fewer movements. He did not show nerves when telling brazen untruths," said Dr Vrij.

Dixons sale advertisement. Features sections for PCs, PORTABLE AUDIO, TV & VIDEO, PHONES & FAX, CAMERAS, CAMCORDERS, PLAYSTATION GAMES, and HI-FI. Includes a large 'PRICE CHECK' graphic and a 'Dixons Price Promise' section at the bottom. The ad lists various products with their original and sale prices, such as a Matsui Personal Stereo for £13.99 and a Philips TV for £729.99. It also includes a '3 WAYS TO BUY' section with a 0% interest option.

Advertisement for 'People's choice homes of his'. It features a photograph of a large, multi-story house with a prominent chimney and a gabled roof. The text is partially obscured but appears to be a real estate advertisement.

سكزا من الأهل

Trapped farmer cuts off arm with a penknife

A FARMER described yesterday how he cut off his forearm with a pocket knife to save his life after his hand was trapped in a baling machine. John Mitson, 46, retrieved his mangled hand from the machine and walked to a nearby house, carrying the remnants of his severed limb.

An ambulance was called and his forearm was packed in ice but the damage was too severe to sew it back on when he arrived at hospital.

Mr Mitson, a single man, was towing a baling machine behind his tractor on his smallholding near Stonham Aspal, Suffolk. He thought that the baling machine had developed a fault and stopped to investigate, but as he approached the baler he stumbled and fell forward into the mechanism.

As he threw out his arm to break his fall, his hand was caught between two rollers, threatening to pull his body into the machinery. Mr Mitson said yesterday: "My first reaction was to try and pull my hand back but it was too late, the machine had grabbed hold of it. I began shouting for help but nobody came."

"Nobody could hear me. I was trying to pull my hand out but it was wearing my wrist away, and I was trapped for about half an hour."

"I was getting pretty close to the end of my time. I was

An accident with a baling machine

led to a drastic life-saving

decision, reports

Robin Young

having dizzy spells. I knew that I either had to get out now or pass out and never know what had happened after. I think the machine would have wound me in."

"To me it was just sheer survival and logic. I had to get out and I could not do it by pulling my forearm out, so I just cut it off."

By that time he had lost all feeling in the arm. After using what he described as a ladies' penknife, Mr Mitson walked almost half a mile to the nearest house and was initially taken by ambulance to a hospital at Ipswich.

Doctors decided that the arm could not be saved and he was transferred to the West Norwich Hospital, where a unit specialises in such injuries.

Surgeons sewed up the wound and Mr Mitson is now back home, nearly a month later, trying to carry out his everyday tasks with only his

left hand. He may be able to have an artificial limb attached in the future.

He managed to joke about it yesterday: "I am a bit short-handed around the farm, but my neighbours and family are helping out. The worst bit is thinking back to making the decision to cut my own hand off. That is the bit that hurts."

"I don't think I took any risks with the machine. It was just one of those things that happen. You cannot have guards on all parts of the machinery."

Peter Moffat, communications manager for West Norwich Hospital, said: "This was a freak accident. There were a whole range of contributory factors, right down to the length of his arm."

"If his arm had been a couple of inches shorter, it would never have got caught up. To cut his arm off and then go for help was a quite remarkable achievement."



Hayley Grinyer modelling the Union Jack outfit in front of less revealing souvenirs

Fashion variety from life of Spice

By JOHN VINCENT

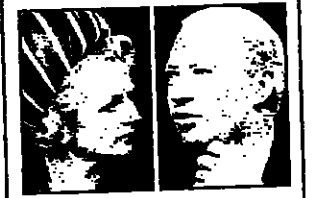
IT HARDLY rates as haute couture. But this little number, run up for a few pounds, is worth a fortune.

The celebrated Union Jack outfit worn by Geri Halliwell at last year's Brit Awards ceremony is the ultimate in DIY dressmaking. The former Spice Girl's sister Karen used cheap material to run up a corset and then stitched on an old flag.

Yesterday the outfit went on show at Sotheby's in London before going under the hammer next Wednesday, when it is expected to fetch up to £12,000. It is among Halliwell's personal collection of 89 Spice Girl mementoes that are expected to raise about £75,000 for Sargent Cancer Care for Children.

Her bright red MG sports car is up for grabs at an estimated £5,000 and the boots she wore with the Union Jack outfit are valued at around £1,000. A polka-dot suit she wore on a visit to the Prince of Wales at Highgrove is estimated at £500.

THE SUNDAY TIMES THE MAN WHO MADE MARGARET



Sir Edward Heath has had an extraordinary life, rising from humble origins to great power and honour, but for the past quarter century his achievements have been overshadowed by his feud with Margaret Thatcher. At the age of 82, he is at last revealing in his memoirs the inside story of this bitter rift

Only in News Review tomorrow

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Rabbi fights synagogue sale of rare books

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A RABBI yesterday attacked a plan by colleagues to sell off a £2 million collection of historic Jewish manuscripts and books dating back to the 15th century.

Harry Rabinowicz, denounced the proposal by the United Synagogue, which represents 66 synagogues in and around London, as disposing of the "family silver", an important part of Jewish heritage. "Anglo-Jewry is to be deprived of its literary heritage," he said.

The United Synagogue, set up by an act of Parliament in the last century, acquired the collection in 1942 with a £300 bequest. It originally belonged to Rabbi Solomon Hirschell who, in 1802, became the first Chief Rabbi and who was a leading collector of books. The proposed sale includes up to 4,000 books, 148 manuscripts and 11 incunabula, as well as some silver valued at a further £80,000.

Dr Rabinowicz, former regional rabbi for Cricklewood, Willesden and Brondesbury Synagogue, said: "In 1939, there were 469 Jewish libraries with a total of more than 3 million books in 20 European countries."

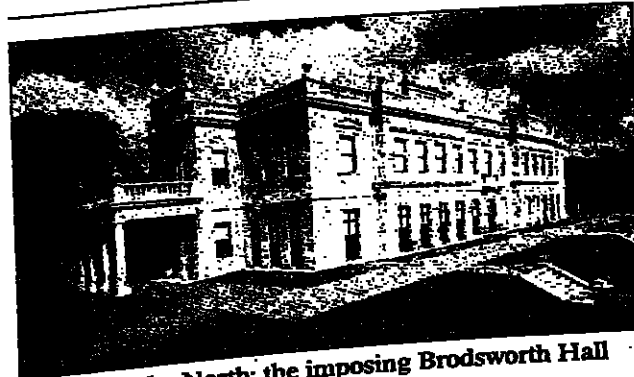
In Poland alone, there were 251 Jewish libraries, 75 per cent of which were destroyed in the war. Like the Jews themselves, books were in exile, scattered and destroyed.

Prized items in the collection, which covers every subject from biblical commentaries to works on mathematics and medicine, include the Ashkenazi prayer book, the first Jewish book produced by a printing press, in Prague in 1505; there is only one other copy, which is in the Bodleian Library, Oxford. It is valued at more than £100,000. Dr Rabinowicz dismissed the United Synagogue's claim that the money raised will be allocated to "certain vital projects, among which, of course, would be the Pension Fund", as "just an excuse". Pensioners would get only £80 from such a sale, he said.

"It is difficult to believe that it is beyond the resources of Anglo-Jewry to establish and maintain a National Jewish Library. Rome and Paris have them." He called on the United Synagogue to reconsider.

The United Synagogue represents the premiere Orthodox congregations, more than 20,000 families, and is presided over by the Chief Rabbi, Jonathan Sacks. It would need to secure the permission of the Charities Commission to sell the collection.

The matter is to be debated at a council meeting on Monday. In a statement prepared for it, the president of the United Synagogue, Elkan Levy, said that the substantial holdings of rare books were "not being properly used" as it lacked the ability to care for or display the treasures.



Best of the North: the imposing Brodsworth Hall

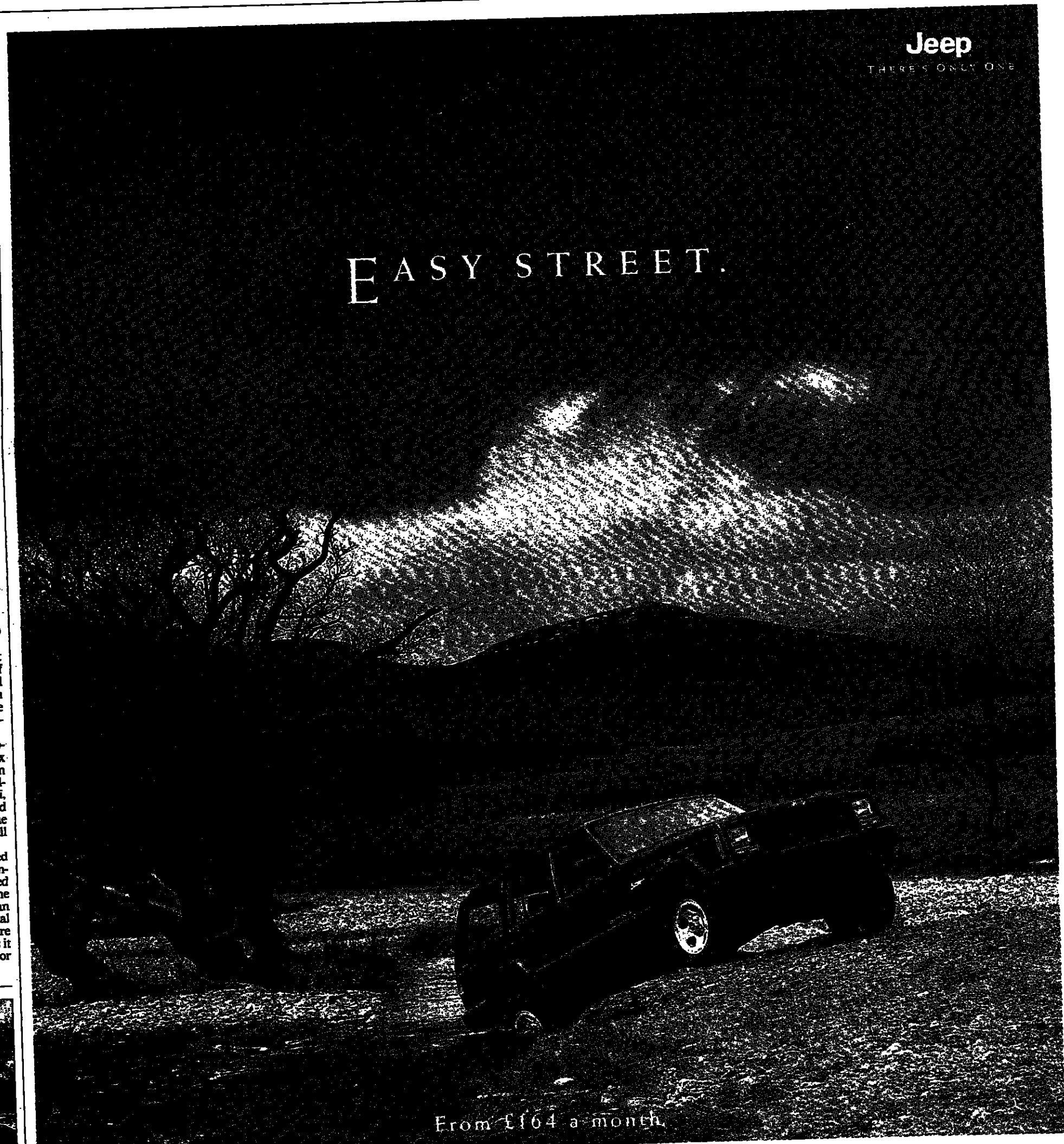
People's choice for homes of history

THE public's 23 favourite historic houses were named yesterday, rated by visitors who completed forms asking about their merits and shortfalls.

Judges drew up the shortlist from more than 500 houses nominated by the public for the National Heritage Awards from the pension provider NPI. The overall winner will be announced in the spring.

The list by region is: Wales — Powis Castle, Erddig Hall, Penrhyn Castle, Ireland —

Mount Stewart, No 29 Dublin; Northern England — Brodsworth Hall; Yorkshire — Mirehouse; Cumbria — Levens Hall; Scotland — Brodie Castle, Fyvie Castle, Brodick Castle; South Eastern England — Audley End House, Blickling Hall, Oxburgh Hall; South England — Waddesdon Manor, Dover Castle, Chiswick House; West Country — Pencarrow, Harland Abbey, Compton Castle; Midlands — Moseley Old Hall, Boscobel, Chavenage.



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BBC talent scouts are on lookout for funny northerners

BBC executives are beginning a search next week for a new generation of sitcom writers with a northern accent. The initiative aims to uncover the talent to create new hits.

TV chiefs search for fresh faces to rescue the British sitcom, reports Russell Jenkins

Head of Entertainment and Features for the BBC, said that drama has been well served. Northern drama, and soap operas such as *Coronation Street* and *Brookside*, had honed a generation of writers ready to filter the human condition through a regional perspective, but this was not the case with the sitcom, now an undernourished part of the schedules.

"We need to encourage a northern voice," Mr Garvie said. "If you take Manchester, there is a comedy circuit that has developed people like Caroline Aherne, Johnny Vegas, who has his own Channel 4 programme coming up at Christmas, and Peter Kay, who has a growing reputation on television. This coterie of talent was based around a Manchester pub called the Frog and Bucket where people gathered to exchange ideas. Consequently there is a whole group of young writers and young comic talent who are beginning to spread their wings a bit. We want to help take them on to the next area of development. This initiative is a chance to pinpoint talent, encourage it and give it a bit of a push."

Victoria Wood writes and stars in her first sitcom, *dinnerladies*, in the BBC's autumn schedules. *The Royalty Family*, written by the Mrs Merion team of Aherne, Craig Cash and Henry Normal, is described as an ordinary tale of working-class folk charting "the drama and emotions of everyday family life, such as whose turn it is to go to the off-licence, set against the continuous hum of the television."

Mr Garvie said: "The Royalty Family is a fantastically innovative sitcom. The writers all started out in Manchester. Their viewpoint is very northern. It is a refreshing change from southern sitcom."

Television and Radio, Vision section



Madonna winning the Best Female Video trophy at the MTV awards in Los Angeles yesterday

TV setting for Chinese classic is a big turn-off

TWICE in the past three years, the American director Peter Sellars has brought work to the Barbican. And for all his ambitious inventiveness, he has twice left me wishing I had brought along a suicide kit.

In his *Merchant of Venice*, a deeply alienated Portia, mooched amid television sets crammed with pictures of the Los Angeles riots. Now Sellars has transposed an opera by Shakespeare's Chinese contemporary, Tang Xianzu, to a not dissimilar setting. Television screens showing everything from falling leaves to the principals' eyebrows are beside and above the stage and inside Perspex screens containing big, glass marbles.

The effect is of a branch of Dixons redesigned by Terence Conran in one of his spare but chic moods, and does little but subtract size and wonder from Tang's mythic tale about the power of Eros to destroy and to reanimate.

In part one's 90 minutes, Du Linxiang idles in the family garden, dreams of the young scholar Liu

THEATRE

Penny Pavilion The Barbican

Mengmei and, since he never appears, expires of frustrated love. She is played by two actresses - at once, Hua Wanyi wears primrose pajamas, chants in Chinese and dances a bit. Lauren Tom wears trousers and talks in English. The words we hear or read on the surtitled board exude a clunky romanticism, filled with stuff about orioles coiling their songs, male forces surging and leaping, and brocade covers being "incense-aided". The undulating squeaks and stylised soprano chirrupings variously put me in mind of mice, canaries and falling police sirens.

Overall, this American-created orientalism has an ersatz feel that is not banished by the 100-minute second half, better though it is. Liu materialises and, after some ghostly encounters, resurrects Du from the shallow Perspex pool that represents her grave. The music is now resolute plainsong, now swoops up and down the octaves with real yearning. We even discover Sellars's idea of what Chinese lowers intone as they come to climax inside a blanket. It is "hey-hoo, hey-hoo". Does that make a long haul worthwhile? Not for me.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Finale approaches in race for top job at Radio 3

By CAROL MIDDLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE race for the job of the Controller of Radio 3, regarded as a barometer of the BBC's commitment to public service broadcasting, will reach its final lap on Monday. A shortlist of at least three candidates has been drawn up by Matthew Bannister, the Director of BBC Radio, and the victor will be announced by the end of next week.

It has been one of the most hotly contested appointments in BBC Radio's history, with allegations of mud-slinging and rumours that the BBC management has already made its choice.

One of the candidates is said to be Roger Lewis, a former head of music for Radio 1 and the current president of Decca UK. Although the BBC will not say who has been shortlisted, sources say Mr Lewis is

a favourite. He helped to build the profile of Nigel Kennedy as "Nige the Cockney", which popularised classical music, and in his previous job at EMI he helped to market popular collections such as *Canto Gregoriano, The Best Classical Album*.

If Mr Lewis is appointed it is likely to strike fear into the heart of classical music purists, who have complained that, under the previous Controller, Nicholas Kenyon, Radio 3 was beginning to sound like a "Classic FM drivetime station".

Hilary Boulding, Radio 3's commissioning editor for music policy and the only woman in the running, is another name said to be on the shortlist. Friends say she has been subjected to a "vicious and unjust" campaign to stop her



In the running: Roger Lewis, Roger Wright and James Jolley are said to be under consideration

getting the job. She has been called an "easy listening fanatic" and "fervent Birnst" but supporters say this is merely propaganda. A BBC source said: "She is an extremely

strong candidate and some people are trying to launch a dirt campaign." Michael Berkeley, the composer and broadcaster, did not put his

name forward, despite support from leading musicians, because he believed the BBC had already decided to appoint a controller who backed Sir John Birt, the BBC

Director-General. A third name on the shortlist is said to be Roger Wright, BBC Head of Classical Music, who has an excellent knowledge of music and is popular with staff. If the BBC chooses him, the purists say, it will show a real commitment to classical programming.

Executives are also said to be considering Dennis Marks, the veteran BBC TV producer; John Willen, Head of Music at BBC Worldwide; John Evans, who works under Roger Wright as Head of Classical Music for Radio; Graham Sheffield, artistic director at the Barbican and James Jolley, the editor of *Gramophone* magazine. Second interviews will be conducted by Mr Bannister and Will Wyatt, Chief Executive of BBC Broadcast, and the appointment must be approved by Sir John and at least one BBC governor.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

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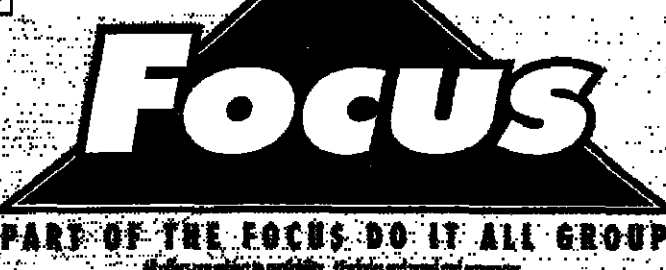
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THE TIMES SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12 1998

Bad b

YOUNG STAR IS HITTING

Man guilty of spanner attack on patient. 72

Na 31 e after dr

Farmers protest bone court

By Paul Wicks

A 68-year-old restaurateur has been accused of hitting a 73-year-old patient with a spanner to prevent the patient from leaving the restaurant.

The man, who is named as Christopher Brown, 68, of the North Norfolk Hotel, was charged with assault on a person over 60 years of age after a 73-year-old patient, who was in a wheelchair, was hit with a spanner in the restaurant's bar.

Others who were in the bar at the time of the attack include the restaurateur's wife and a friend of the patient.

Mr Brown, who lives in Addington, Norfolk, was charged with assault on a person over 60 years of age after a 73-year-old patient, who was in a wheelchair, was hit with a spanner in the restaurant's bar.

Others who were in the bar at the time of the attack include the restaurateur's wife and a friend of the patient.

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Bad boy of bowls is banned for ten years

Young star is thrown out for swearing, writes Simon de Bruxelles

A YOUNG England bowls international who likes to compare himself to John McEnroe and Paul Gascoigne has just been banned for ten years for swearing at officials.

The sport dominated by the middle-aged, 25-year-old Griff Saunders long hair, hot temper and less than pristine "whites" marked him out as a trouble-maker. When he was heard cursing during the South West Counties Championship last month he caught scrawling "John Smerdon is a tosser" on his scoreboard, they decided that the game was better off without him.

Yesterday Mr Saunders was banned from all outdoor bowls competitions by the Devon County Bowling Association for the slur on its honorary secretary, who was present at the game. Bowls insiders claim that Mr Saunders was venting frustration at being in out of the Devon first team, despite being the county's past champion last year. In a statement the association said that his "unacceptable behaviour" had brought the game into disrepute and his membership had been suspended for ten years.

Mr Saunders, from Torquay,



Griff Saunders: Devon's youngest county player

claimed yesterday that his energy and aggression were what bowls needed to shake off its reputation as a sport for the elderly and infirm. "It's like McEnroe, Gazza, Alex Higgins, Ian Botham - I've got a little bit of what they have," he said. "It's what makes me different, it's what makes me good. I put some emotion into the game. We all get agitated sometimes, on the rink I might run after the wood and shout, even swear sometimes. The game has got to change - this is the 1990s." He claimed that Mr Smerdon had victimised him because he did not toe the

official line and did not fit in on the bowling circuit. "I'm not going to be two-faced about it, I don't like him and I don't think he likes me. A ten-year ban - I couldn't believe it."

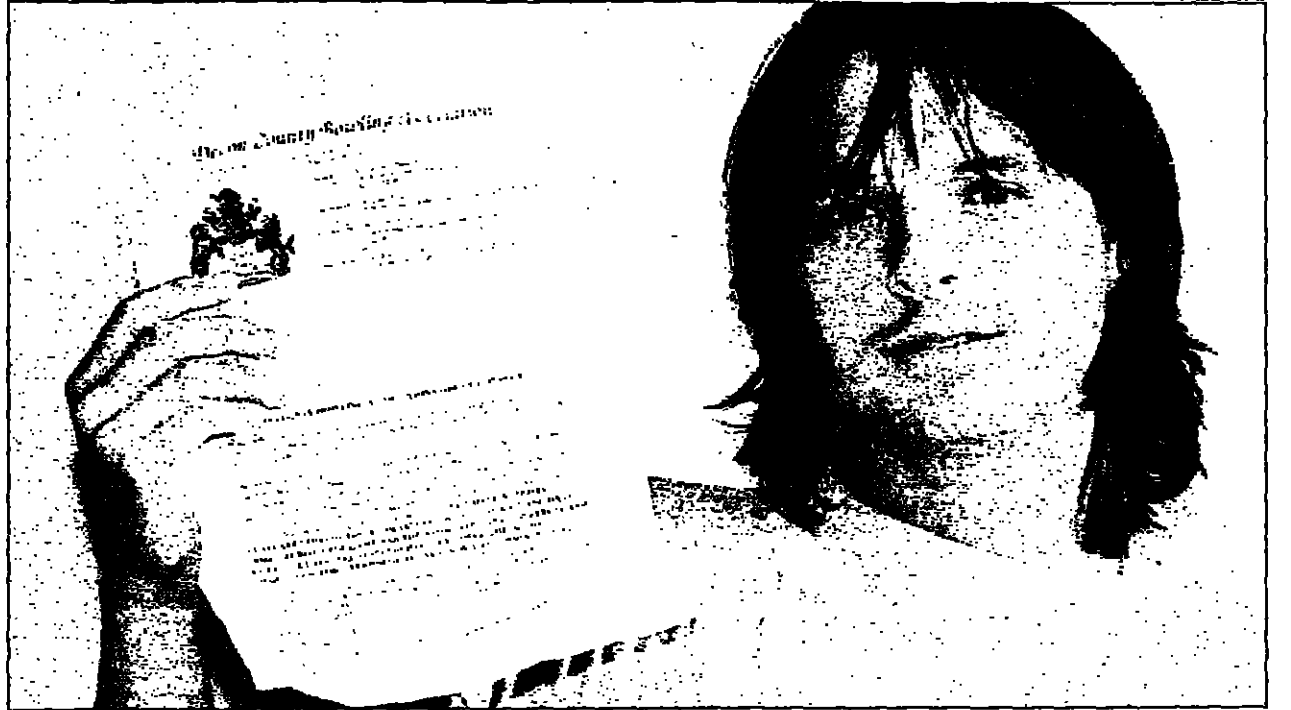
His father, David Sanders, 47, who introduced him to bowls at the age of ten, described the ban as ridiculous. He said: "We all reckon Griff should have been rapped across the knuckles for what he did, but a ten-year ban means the end of his career on outdoor greens. Unless he leaves Devon and is able to find another club, the only outdoor bowling he can do is

in a village green friendly." Alan Horwell, of Torquay's Kings Bowling Club, where Saunders plays, said the ban was the result of a clash of personalities. He said: "The hierarchy of the game does tend to be primarily people who have retired and who can give time to running the sport. It is those people who can have the most trouble accepting the younger generation."

"An awful lot of people think a ten-year ban is over the top. If he was in some other sport he would be a millionaire. When he gets it all together he is quite awesome."

"Everyone who knows him says he would be fine if he didn't keep pushing the self-destruct button. He is not too benevolent to his opponents, but that is true in all sports. But he is a very bad loser and it doesn't matter how good you are, everyone loses sometimes."

There's no way he would walk through town in his bowls gear. He tends to appear in his T-shirt, jeans and boots, with his woods and all his kit in his rucksack. Let's just say his whites don't get washed as often as some others' do." Mr Saunders, who works as



Saunders with the letter informing him that he had been suspended for ten years for unacceptable behaviour

a painter and labourer, is to appeal to the English Bowling Association. In the past he has been warned for not wearing a tie and not wearing white socks on the bowling green. Last year he was forced to sign

an undertaking to behave after not filling in his scorecard and copying the figures from his opponent at the end of the game. On another occasion he pretended to have had too much to drink at

lunchtime and staggered around the green. His eccentricities did not prevent his selection for the England Under-25 team or stop him becoming the youngest member of the Devon

team that played against other southwest counties last month. Despite his fears, if he returns to bowls when he is 35 he will still be a youngster compared with the majority of players.

Man guilty of spanner attack on patient, 72

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A HOSPITAL patient recuperating from an operation attacked an elderly man with a spanner because his screams kept him awake at night, a court heard yesterday.

David Powell, 5, admitted to a jury that he hit 72-year-old Gordon Gullick over the head to "quiet him down". Mr Gullick, a retired steelworker, died of unrelated causes three months later. He was never again able to sleep properly for fear of being attacked by Powell.

Hilary Roberts, for the prosecution, said Mr Gullick had been put in a single room next to Powell's ward at the Aberbeeg hospital near Abertillery, Gwent, because he was shouting in his sleep. Powell was recovering from a lung operation. "The nurses came to see Mr Gullick twice to calm him down, but it was after the third bout of calling out that Powell reacted," Mr Roberts said.

"He picked up a spanner used for opening oxygen cylinders and ended Mr Gullick's room to carry out the assault on the defenceless man."

Powell admitted hitting Mr Gullick four or five times. He told the court: "Mr Gullick was screaming all the time. I had had enough. I hit him four or five times until he quietened down. Then stopped. I didn't want to kill him."

At the Caeriff Crown Court Powell, of Llynidhel, Gwent, denied wounding with intent to cause serious bodily harm although he admitted a lesser charge of assault.

The jury found him guilty of the more serious offence. He now faces a maximum life sentence.

Judge Per Jacobs released Powell on bail to await sentencing, but told him to expect to be jailed.

Mr Gullick's daughter Anabelle Dines, 53, said after the verdict: "I used to visit him after the assault and Dad would be in bed and still scared of Powell. He would tell me: 'He's coming to get me, he's coming to get me. I'm frightened'."

Navy lists 31 changes after pupil drowns

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

THE Royal Navy made 31 recommendations to improve safety after a public school sixth-former drowned unnoticed under a liferaft during a sea-survival exercise supervised by navy specialists.

Seventy per cent of the proposals to deal with deficiencies uncovered by the Navy after the incident at Charterhouse School have already been implemented, an inquest into the death of Nicholas Stafford, 18, was told yesterday.

After a verdict of accidental death was recorded, his parents, Colin and Evelyn Stafford, who had earlier criticised safety standards, said they were satisfied future adventure exercises would be safer.

Commander Rodney Steel of HMS Sultan, where the two instructors were based, told the hearing at Guildford, Surrey, that youth training had been suspended and two Navy boards of inquiry set up.

The first dealt with the administrative side of the programme and the second specifically looked at the accident itself. Commander Steel said: "Twenty recommendations came from the first inquiry and a further 11 from the second. To date, 70 per cent of these have been implemented."

Nevertheless, the Coroner, Michael Burgess, intends to express concern to the Admiralty's Second Sea Lord after hearing that Nicholas lay trapped for up to 15 minutes before his foot was seen protruding from under the liferaft.

Mr Stafford, who said that he had no wish to see adventure training curtailed, said: "Obviously we are totally devastated by the loss of Nicholas. Had all these safety procedures been in force on January 26, he would be alive today. The objective of the inquest was to make sure that it could not happen again to another student and family. We are satisfied it will not."

The Navy has sent its recommendations to the Health and Safety Executive.

Farmers protest at T-bone court case

By PAUL WILKINSON

A PUB restaurateur appears before magistrates yesterday, accused of selling T-bone steak in breach of regulations intended to prevent the transmission of "mad cow disease" to human beings.

As Christopher Bowman, of the Drovers Inn at Bishop Throton, near Harrogate, North Yorkshire, appeared in court, almost 100 farmers demonstrated outside. Some set up a barbeque at the court steps in Harrogate, where they could their own T-bone steaks. Others drove tractors and Land Rovers through the town.

Mr Atkinson, a hill farmer from Addingham, West Yorkshire, said: "I'm secretary of the Wharfedale

Farmers' Auction, so I'm delighted to see such a good turnout. There is intense feeling not only among farmers but also the general public about the way the industry has been treated. Livestock farming is at a terrible low."

Mr Atkinson said that he sold sheep for £90 last year, but they brought less than £60 today. "Ten years ago, before BSE, a bullock would fetch £1,200. Two weeks ago I saw one go for £780."

Mr Bowman, who denies the charge, was bailed to appear again before magistrates in two weeks. The prosecution is being brought by North Yorkshire County Council trading standards department.

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Everybody knows a motivated and alert workforce produces the best work. When people work too many hours accidents happen, mistakes are made and nobody profits. October 1st sees the introduction of the new Working Time Regulations designed to help businesses be more productive. The Regulations represent fair minimum standards, while allowing flexibility for workers and employers to make arrangements which suit them. For further information about how these Regulations may affect you, call the Workright information line on (local rate) 0845 6000 925. Alternatively visit our website at <http://www.dti.gov.uk/workright>. Similar but separate rules will apply in Northern Ireland.

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TV setting for Chinese classic is a big turn-out

03

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Images of naked obsession

JAMES BONE'S NEW YORK

New York's 144 strip clubs, porn shops and peep shows are slowly being closed or forced to move to isolated industrial areas as the local authorities crack down on traditional red-light zones.

But the "city that never sleeps" is not about to lose its reputation as a latter-day Sodom and Gomorrah. Even as go-go girls don bikinis to meet the new regulations, X-rated material is flourishing in another unlikely venue: the New York art world.

Nothing, it seems, sells art like sex. Artists have always been obsessed with the nude, of course, but photography gives them the opportunity to be more explicit than Botticelli ever was. Since the late Robert Mapplethorpe's homo-erotic nudes caused a furore in the Eighties and Jeff Koons photographed himself with his porn-star wife Cicciolina earlier this decade, the pictures on the gallery walls have been getting more and more explicit.

In recent months, reputable New York galleries have been pushing at the limits of taste with controversial depictions of sex, ranging from bestiality to bondage and beyond.

The Paula Cooper Gallery in Chelsea, for example, has been representing Andres Ser-

rano's photographic series *A History of Sex*. The artist became a national figure in 1987 when he dipped a plastic crucifix in a beaker of his own urine and photographed it as the infamous *Piss Christ*.

His latest work, some of which was shown this summer in London, includes one image of a woman urinating in a man's mouth and another of a woman (apparently a banker) fondling a sullion's erection. Thanks in part to the controversy, his photographs sell for about \$10,000 (£6,000) apiece.

The Jack Tilton Gallery in SoHo, in the meantime, staged the *Self Portrait Porno Show* in which professional porn stars performed rollicking sex. The piece was presented by Gloria Heilman, otherwise known as Heilman-C, who publicised it with half-naked advertisements in the press. Unfortunately for the artist, the work attracted as much attention from the "dirty-mac" brigade as it did from serious art critics.

The controversy reaches a crescendo this weekend when two new shows exploring aspects of sex open in New York. *Eros Electronic* at Matthew Sandager is devoted to video art and contains one minute of edited footage from the Kinsey Institute of animals copulat-



Brooke Shields in *Pretty Baby*. Nude pictures of her aged ten feature in an exhibition opening this weekend

ing. Generating the most buzz, however, is the American Fine Arts Gallery's exhibition of much-litigated nude photographs of Brooke Shields, the film star, aged ten.

Garry Gross, the photographer, hired the pre-pubescent Shields through a modelling agency in 1975 to pose naked in a bathtub for \$450. "The original concept was one that I had many years ago as a result of living with a woman and her little daughter, that there is an emerging woman in

these little girls," Mr Gross said.

"I decided to do a book of them in all their innocence and then as I thought they would be eight to ten years later. The concept was 'the woman in the child'."

The carefully posed pictures are reported to have prompted Louis Malle to cast the budding actress as a child prostitute in his 1978 film, *Pretty Baby*.

When Mr Gross tried to sell the photographs in 1981, how-

ever, Miss Shields sued and gave evidence through tears that the pictures embarrassed her. Protected by a release form that gave him complete control of the images, Gross won the case after a three-year battle that ended in New York's highest court.

"Some people consider them pornographic," the photographer said. "That's the way life is. Others consider them art. I like them very much... Will they titillate? It's in the eyes of the beholder. They do not need

my \$3,000 picture to be titillated. They can go to any video store and get *Pretty Baby*." With her husband, André Agassi, in town for the US Tennis Open, there is speculation that Miss Shields might even drop by the show. But Gross doubts that.

"I do not expect her to," he said. "I would like her to, if she came with an open heart. I like her a lot. I was watching tennis the other day."

"I still root for Agassi. I was hoping he was going to win."



Kelsey Grammer and David Hyde Pierce are said to be preparing to move from sitcom to Broadway



Broadway Art grabs a slice of sitcom life

THE Broadway production of Yasmina Reza's play *A Man of Honour* may be getting a cast of sitcom stars. Kelsey Grammer, John Mahoney and David Hyde Pierce of *Frasier* are said to be in talks to take over as the three old friends who argue over a plain white canvas that is meant to be "art". The West End production already has its own US television actor in George Wendt of *Cheers*.

□ Gareth Branwyn's *Jargon Watch* in *Wired* magazine covers the following new entries: "Perma-lancer", a permanent freelancer; "Ohnosecond", the fraction of time it takes you realise you've made a big mistake; and "Sitcoms", sitcoms with two children, oppressive mortgage.

□ With the stock market bouncing around worse than a New York subway car, the "status gadget" of choice is no longer the mobile phone but the Quotrack machine.

This hand-held device allows owners to follow the progress of their share portfolio wherever they go. It is popular not just with Wall Street professionals but also with taxi and delivery drivers who supplement their incomes by "day trading".

One Quotrack-toting postman claims to have doubled his portfolio by calling in share deals from public telephones. He bought himself a new Jeep.

Doubtful 'Deep Throat'

IT IS hard to believe, these days that there was once a time of such innocence that pundits could speak of "Deep Throat" in the White House without giggling. Ever since Watergate, the identity of Bob Woodward's ind. Carl Bernstein's source about President Nixon's activities has remained a secret.

All that the pair of investigative journalists will say is that "Deep Throat" is a man and that he is still alive. Further disclosure will have to await his death.

Now the duo's former literary agent, questioning the conventional wisdom, and suggesting that "Deep Throat" might be nothing more than a journalist's device — a composite character. In a new book, David Gbet says that the mysterious source did not appear in the journalists' original proposal for *All the Presidents Men*, but then turned up in the first draft.

□ Mike Niers's portrayal of Steve Rubell in the newly released *Studio 54*, due out in Britain in December, has disappointed not just the critics but also the family of the late club bo.

The gregarious Rubell is considered the inspiration behind the legendary "Studio 54", which he founded with Ian Schrager, a former property lawyer, in the Seventies before they went to jail for tax evasion.

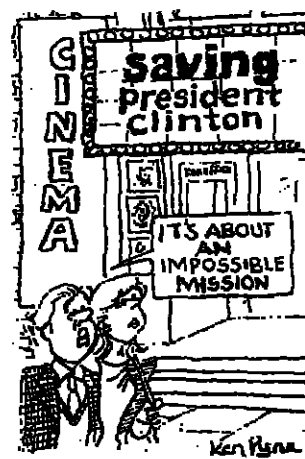
"We are sorry that an opportunity to share Steve's complex and incredible character with the world has been wasted," the family said.

Lennon's last cover unsold

A MORBID memento of John Lennon put up for sale on the Internet has failed to fetch its \$1.8 million (£1.1 million) asking price. Gary Zimet, the New York dealer, is trying to sell the *Double Fantasy* album cover that Lennon signed for his murderer moments before he was shot.

The cover comes complete with fingerprints of the killer, Mark David Chapman — enhanced by forensic science — as well as letters from the prosecutor who handled the case. The seller is an anonymous New York lawyer — and lifelong Beatles fan — who found the cover outside the Dakota block of flats on the Upper West Side after Lennon's murder in 1980.

"It's still available for sale," Mr Zimet says. "We have had some offers in the \$500,000 to \$1 million range. Frankly, I'm surprised not more people have come out of the woodwork with offers."



Chapman: cover comes with his fingerprints

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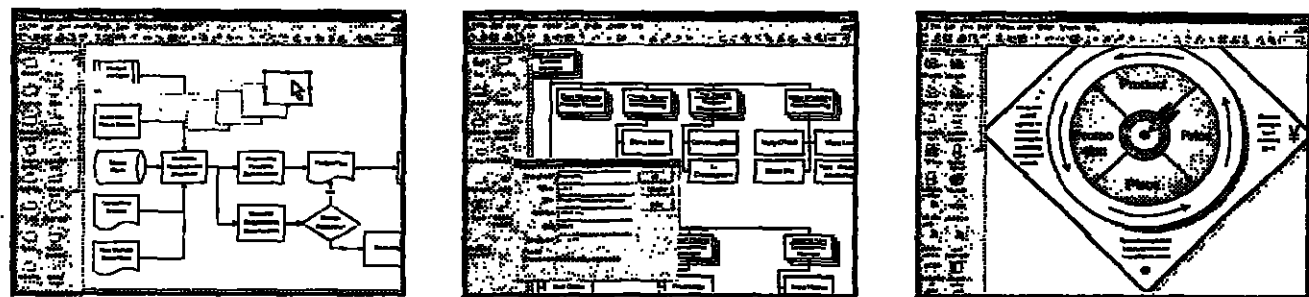
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The Garden of the Finzi-Continis became a film in 1971

Battle over writer's soul

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

A LEGAL tussle is coming to a head over the fate of Giorgio Bassani, Italy's foremost living writer, who is alleged to be suffering from senile dementia. The author of *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis* has become the subject of a tug-of-war between his wife and mistress, both of whom claim they should care for him and protect his legacy.

Signor Bassani, 82, is best known for his great elegiac novel, set in the doomed world of a well-to-do aristocratic Jewish family in Ferrara during the Fascist period. Published in 1962 to critical acclaim, *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis* was made into a film in 1971. Signor Bassani's collected works are about to be published in Italy, a sign that he is considered a "modern classic".

According to his family, however, Signor Bassani's memory has failed, and he has become almost totally dependent on others. Signor Bassani separated from his wife, Valeria Sinigaglia, 40 years ago, and for more than 30 years has lived in a flat in Rome with Porzia Prebys, an American professor of literature.

Signora Sinigaglia maintains that she and her two children, Paola and Enrico, are better qualified to look after the great writer. She accuses Professor Prebys of "manipulating" Signor Bassani, and in particular of recently engineering the sale of the House of the Magnolias, the house in Ferrara where Signor Bassani lived as a young man during the Second World War and which formed the backdrop for *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis*. Although separat-

ed from Signora Sinigaglia since 1958, Signor Bassani has continued to provide for her financially.

But Signora Sinigaglia alleges that much of his wealth, royalties and art collection have been "fraternally" last year, after a lengthy campaign, she obtained a court ruling that the writer was "partially incapable" of dealing with his own financial affairs. The family are now having psychiatric tests conducted in an attempt to prove that he is incapable of understanding what is said to him and has "no will of his own."

If the Rome judges accept this, Signor Bassani will be prohibited from signing cheques, making decisions over property, drawing on his royalties, making a new will or initiating divorce proceedings. Professor Prebys has engaged a rival psychiatrist to prove that Signor Bassani is "perfectly sane". The case comes to court in October.

Friends who recall the dapper, pipe-smoking author as the habitué of Rome's most fashionable cafés and tennis clubs find it hard to believe he is senile or insane.

In Bassani's novel, the Finzi-Continis — a hitherto prominent Ferrara family — react to racial laws introduced by Mussolini by inviting fellow Jews banned from the Ferrara tennis club to use their garden instead. The walled garden forms the setting for the unnamed narrator's infatuation with the Finzi-Continis beautiful daughter, Micol.

The novel's powerful evocation of memories of a lost domain before the family "disappears" forever in 1943 has been compared with the work of Marcel Proust.

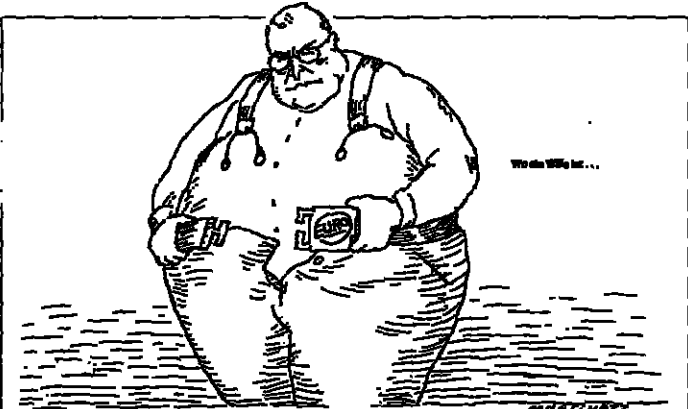
Germany's cartoonists get measure of 'The Pear' with satire, writes Roger Boyes in Bonn



Kohl adapts to reductions in government transport spending



'Don't go too far, boys' Kohl's Free Democrat allies are urged



The Chancellor believes where there's a will, there's a way



Enemies and rivals show their feelings about his legacy

Kohl cut down to size

THE slogan "Kohl muss weg!" — Kohl has to go — has become the rallying call of the opposition in the German election campaign. But it is also the view of the Chancellor's younger Christian Democratic backbenchers who are beginning to plot their party's future without the man who has led them for the past 16 years.

About 53 per cent of Germans have yet to make up their mind with only a fortnight until the election, but the cartoonists and caricaturists have already made their call: they are betting heavily against the Chancellor. Helmut Kohl was always a figure of fun. His expanding girth, his provincialism was mocked even before he became Chancellor in 1982. Soon after he became German leader he was dubbed *Birne* — The Pear. That referred not only to his physique, but also conveyed the feeling that he was big, soft and empty.

Herr Kohl turned this mockery on his head. As he squashed rivals, won elections and the trust of statesmen, so "the Pear" became an affectionate term.

Cartoonists, however, are ruthless and they sensed, as early as three years ago, that Herr Kohl was no longer a lovable old fruit. Suddenly he was represented as arrogant, lonely and helpless. His wish to carry on for another four-year term was interpreted by sharp-tongued cartoonists as a form of hubris. Slowly, the Germans have come to share this view.

Somewhere in this progression Herr Kohl lost his own sense of humour. When one cartoonist drew his scantly-clad wife draped over a car, Herr Kohl took the magazine to court and all issues were pulped. The public barely raised a squeak of protest but the cartoonists took note. Herr Kohl had become vulnerable.

VW creates £7m fund to compensate Nazi slaves

FROM REUTERS IN BONN

VOLKSWAGEN, the German carmaker founded under Hitler's Nazi regime, announced yesterday that it was launching a 20 million mark (£7 million) fund to compensate its Second World War slave labourers.

The company, Europe's biggest carmaker, which relies on exports for more than half of its business, announced plans to create the fund in July for elderly survivors, many of whom live in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The move came in the face of increasing pressure on German industry from

Holocaust survivors and former slave labourers to redress injustice incurred during the Nazi era. Klaus Kookis, a Volkswagen spokesman, said the company had not been legally obliged to provide restitution, because Germany had already paid extensive postwar reparations — more than 100 billion marks to date. But the "private relief fund" was a gesture in recognition of the company's shared moral responsibility.

Historians say VW, founded in 1938 to build the "Volkswagen" or People's Car, bought the labour of about 7,000 slaves from the SS between 1941 and 1945. Their work

included building mines. Less than 1,000 are believed to survive. Klaus von Mäntchen, a German academic who represents about 150 Jews who were forced to work for VW, welcomed the fund as "start-up capital". He said that the key issue was how much each individual would receive.

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THE FALL OF CLINTON

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Reconciling with Yassir Arafat, left, and Binyamin Netanyahu at the White House in 1996



Steven Spielberg, the director, with the golfing President in June



Out jogging last year with daughter Chelsea



Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin leader, meets President Clinton in Belfast in November 1996



The "lonesome cowboy" image: President Clinton goes riding on a white horse in 1995



Chelsea's photograph of her golfer father



The saxophonist President in Washington

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Continued from page 22

era of deadlock and drift—a new season of American renewal has begun," he said. "It is time to break the bad habit of expecting something for nothing, from our government or each other. Let us all take more responsibility, not only for ourselves and our families but for our communities and our country."

"From this joyous mountaintop of celebration we hear a call to service in the valley. We have heard the trumpets. We have changed the guards. And now, each in our way, we must answer the call."

Mr Clinton also promised the most ethical Administration there had ever been.

In retrospect that was the high point of Mr Clinton's political career. Only once again would he receive such acclaim, and that was during his visit to Northern Ireland in 1995 when tens of thousands of Catholics and Protestants turned out to greet him and demonstrate their yearning for peace. He enjoyed one of the shortest political honeymoons in history as this former Governor of a small southern state and his inexperienced advisers lurched from one miscalculation to another.

Mr Clinton swiftly alienated great sections of conservative Middle America by trying to end the ban on homosexuals in the military. Having promised middle-class tax cuts, he floated a new energy tax. Determined to have a woman as Attorney-General, he only settled on Janet Reno after his first two nominees had to be withdrawn because they

had employed illegal immigrants as nannies.

He alienated the self-important White House media by restricting their access, and there were numerous colourful stories about ear-ringed, pony-tailed young policy wonks munching pizza and hijacking state rooms for endless inconclusive seminars. At the end of his first 100 days he had the worst ratings of any modern President. Mr Clinton

"We pledge an end to the era of deadlock and drift. A new season of renewal has begun. We have changed the guard. Now we must answer the call"

appointed an old friend, Lani Guinier, to head the Justice Department's civil rights division, then abandoned her when opponents dug up some of her old writings that had a distinctly radical bent. He enjoyed a \$200 haircut (£120) while Air Force One blocked the runway of Los Angeles airport.

Worse was to follow. Many arch-conservatives never accepted the legitimacy of Mr

Clinton's election with just 43 per cent of the vote. They were convinced of his essential corruption. They went sniffing for scandal, and the new Administration obligingly played into their hands.

Seven long-serving members of the White House travel office were dismissed, apparently at the behest of FOIs (Friends of Bill) who wanted the business. A White House aide from Arkansas was found to have ordered up FBI background files on several hundred Republicans. Then in July 1993 Vincent Foster, the deputy White House counsel and another Arkansan, killed himself in a park in suburban Virginia.

Foster had worked with Mrs Clinton at the Rose Law Firm. He was dealing with questions about an obscure Arkansas land deal involving the Clintons at the time of his death. Within hours of his suicide senior White House officials had searched and removed files from his office.

The conspiracy theorists had a field day. The Whitewater affair became increasingly big news, and in January 1994 Robert Fiske was named as special prosecutor to investigate. Mr Fiske subsequently handed over to Kenneth Starr, the scope of the investigation steadily widened to include Travelgate, Filegate and other alleged wrongdoings, and ended up four years and \$40 million later with Monica Lewinsky telling a grand jury all about her affair with Mr Clinton.

In December 1993 the ultra-conservative *American Spectator* magazine compounded Mr Clinton's problems by publishing the claims of four Arkansas state troopers who said they had procured a number of women for Mr Clinton while he was Governor. One of them, Paula Jones, then sued Mr Clinton for alleged sexual harassment, claiming he had lured her up to a Little Rock hotel room

Continued on page 24

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The cat's whiskers: Sprite

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THE STARR REPORT

The President called Monica 'Sweetie'

Introduction

As required by Section 595(c) of Title 28 of the United States Code, the Office of the Independent Counsel (OIC or Office) hereby submits substantial and credible information that President William Jefferson Clinton committed acts that may constitute grounds for an impeachment. (1)

The information reveals that President Clinton:

lied under oath at a civil deposition while he was a defendant in a sexual harassment lawsuit;

lied under oath to a grand jury;

attempted to influence the testimony of a potential witness who had direct knowledge of facts that would reveal the falsity of his deposition testimony;

attempted to obstruct justice by facilitating a witness's plan to refuse to comply with a subpoena;

attempted to obstruct justice by encouraging a witness to file an affidavit that the President knew would be false, and then by making use of that false affidavit at his own deposition;

lied to potential grand jury witnesses, knowing that they would repeat those lies before the grand jury; and engaged in a pattern of conduct that was inconsistent with his constitutional duty to faithfully execute the laws.

The evidence shows that these acts, and others, were part of a pattern that began as an effort to prevent the disclosure of information about the President's relationship with a former White House intern and employee, Monica S. Lewinsky, and continued as an effort to prevent the information being disclosed in an ongoing criminal investigation.

Factual Background

In May 1994, Paula Corbin Jones filed a lawsuit against William Jefferson Clinton in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas. (2) Ms Jones alleged that while he was the Governor of Arkansas, President Clinton sexually harassed her during an incident in a Little Rock hotel room. (3) President Clinton denied the allegations. He also challenged the ability of a private litigant to pursue a lawsuit against a sitting President. In May 1997, the Supreme Court unanimously rejected the President's legal argument. The Court concluded that Ms Jones, "like every other citizen who properly invokes [the District Court's] jurisdiction... has a right to an orderly disposition of her claims," and that therefore Ms Jones was entitled to pursue her claims while the President was in office. (4) A few months later, the pretrial discovery process began. (5)

One sharply disputed issue in the Jones litigation was the extent to which the President would be required to disclose information about sexual relationships he may have had with "other women". Ms Jones's attorneys sought disclosure of this information, arguing that it was relevant to proving that the President had propositioned Ms Jones. The President resisted the discovery requests, arguing that evidence of relationships with other women (if any) was irrelevant.

In late 1997, the issue was presented to United States District Judge Susan Webber Wright for resolution. Judge Wright's decision was unambiguous. For purposes of pretrial discovery, President Clinton was required to provide certain information about his alleged relationships with other women. In an order dated December 11, 1997, for example, Judge Wright said: "The Court finds, therefore, that the plaintiff is entitled to information regarding any individuals with whom the President had sexual relations or proposed or sought to have sexual relations and who were during the relevant time frame state or federal employees." (6) Judge Wright left for another day the issue whether any information of this type would be admissible were the case to go to trial. But for purposes of answering the written questions served on the President, and for purposes of answering questions at a deposition, the District Court ruled that the President must respond.

In mid-December 1997, the President answered one of the written discovery questions posed by Ms Jones to identify issue. When asked to identify all women who were state or federal employees and with whom he had had "sexual relations" since 1986, (7) the

President answered under oath "None." (8) For purposes of this interrogatory, the term "sexual relations" was not defined.

On January 17, 1998, President Clinton was questioned under oath about his relationships with other women in the workplace, this time at a deposition. Judge Wright presided over the deposition. The President was asked numerous questions about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky, by then a 24-year-old former White House intern, White House employee, and Pentagon employee. Under oath and in the presence of Judge Wright, the President denied that he had engaged in a "sexual affair," a "sexual relationship," or "sexual relations" with Ms. Lewinsky. The President also stated that he had no specific memory of having been alone with Ms. Lewinsky, that he remembered few details of any gifts they might have exchanged, and indicated that no one except his attorneys had kept him informed of Ms. Lewinsky's status as a potential witness in the Jones case.

The Investigation

On January 12, 1998, this Office received information that Monica Lewinsky was attempting to influence the testimony of one of the witnesses in the Jones litigation, and that Ms. Lewinsky herself was prepared to provide false information under oath in that lawsuit. The OIC was also informed that Ms. Lewinsky had spoken to the President and the President's close friend Vernon Jordan about being subpoenaed to testify in the Jones suit, and that Vernon Jordan and others were helping her find a job. The allegations with respect to Mr. Jordan and the job search were similar to ones already under review in the ongoing Whitewater investigation. (9)

After gathering preliminary evidence to test the information's reliability, the OIC presented the evidence to the Attorney General. Based on her review of the information, the Attorney General determined that a further investigation by the Independent Counsel was required.

On the following day, Attorney General Reno positioned the Special Division of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, on an expedited basis, to expand the jurisdiction of Independent Counsel Kenneth W. Starr. On January 16, 1998, in response to the Attorney General's request, the Special Division issued an order that provides in pertinent part:

The Independent Counsel shall have jurisdiction and authority to investigate to the maximum extent authorized by the Independent Counsel Reauthorization Act of 1994 whether Lewinsky or others suborned perjury, obstructed justice, intimidated witnesses, or otherwise violated federal law other than a Class B or C misdemeanor or infraction in dealing with witnesses, potential witnesses, attorneys, or others concerning the civil case Jones v. Clinton. (10)

On January 28, 1998, after the allegations about the President's relationship with Ms. Lewinsky became public, the OIC filed a Motion for Limited Intervention and a Stay of Discovery in Jones v. Clinton. The OIC argued that the civil discovery process should be halted because it was having a negative effect on the criminal investigation. The OIC represented to the Court that numerous individuals then under subpoena in Jones, including Monica Lewinsky, were integral to the OIC's investigation, and that courts routinely stayed discovery in such circumstances. (11)

The next day Judge Wright responded to the OIC's motion. The Court ruled that discovery would be permitted to continue, except to the extent that it sought information about Lewinsky. The Court acknowledged that "evidence concerning Monica Lewinsky might be relevant to the issues in the Jones case," (12) it concluded, however, that this evidence was not "essential to the core issues in this case," and that some of that evidence "might even be inadmissible." (13) The Court found that the potential value of this evidence was outweighed by the potential delay to the Jones case in continuing to seek discovery about Ms. Lewinsky. (14) The Court also was concerned that the OIC's investigation "could be impaired and prejudiced" were the Court to permit inquiry into the Lewinsky matter by the parties in this civil case. (15)

On March 9, 1998, Judge Wright denied Ms. Jones's

motion for reconsideration of the decision regarding Monica Lewinsky. The order states:

The Court readily acknowledges that evidence of the Lewinsky matter might have been relevant to plaintiffs' case and, as she argues, that such evidence might possibly have helped her establish, among other things, intent, absence of mistake, motive, and habit on the part of the President. Nevertheless, whatever relevance such evidence may otherwise have... it simply is not essential to the core issues in this case... (16)

On April 1, 1998, Judge Wright granted President Clinton's motion for summary judgment, concluding that even if the facts alleged by Paula Jones were true, her claims failed as a matter of law. (17) Ms. Jones has filed an appeal, and as of the date of this Referral, the matter remains under consideration by the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit.

After the dismissal of Ms. Jones's lawsuit, the criminal investigation continued. It was (and is) the view of this Office that any attempt to obstruct the proper functioning of the judicial system, regardless of the perceived merits of the underlying case, is a serious matter that warrants further inquiry. After careful consideration of all the evidence, the OIC has concluded that the evidence of wrongdoing is substantial and credible, and that the wrongdoing is of sufficient gravity that it warrants referral to Congress. (18)

The Significance of the Evidence of Wrongdoing

It is not the role of this Office to determine whether the President's actions warrant impeachment by the House and removal by the Senate; those judgments are, of course, constitutionally entrusted to the legislative branch. (19) This Office is authorized, rather, to conduct criminal investigations and to seek criminal prosecutions for matters within its jurisdiction. (20) In carrying out its investigation, however, this Office also has a statutory duty to disclose to Congress information that "may constitute grounds for an impeachment," a task that inevitably requires judgment about the seriousness of the acts revealed by the evidence.

From the beginning, this phase of the OIC's investigation has been criticized as an improper inquiry into the President's personal behavior; indeed, the President himself suggested that specific inquiries into his conduct were part of an effort to "criminalize my private life." (21) The regrettable fact that the investigation has often required witnesses to discuss sensitive personal matters has fueled this perception.

All Americans, including the President, are entitled to enjoy a private family life, free from public or governmental scrutiny. But the privacy concerns raised in this case are subject to limits, those of which we briefly set forth here.

First, the first limit was imposed when the President was sued in federal court for alleged sexual harassment. The evidence in such litigation is often personal. At times, that evidence is highly embarrassing for both plaintiff and defendant. As Judge Wright noted at the President's January 1998 deposition, "I have never had a sexual harassment case where there was not some embarrassment." (22) Nevertheless, Congress and the Supreme Court have concluded that embarrassment-related concerns must give way to the greater interest in allowing aggrieved parties to pursue their claims. Courts have long recognized the difficulties of proving sexual harassment in the workplace, inasmuch as improper or unlawful behavior often takes place in private. (23) To excuse a party who lied or concealed evidence on the ground that the evidence covered only "personal" or "private" behavior would frustrate the goals that Congress and the courts have sought to achieve in enacting and interpreting the Nation's sexual harassment laws. That is particularly true when the conduct that is being concealed—sexual relations in the workplace between a high official and a young subordinate employee—itself conflicts with those goals.

Second, the second limit was imposed when Judge Wright required disclosure of the precise information that is in part the subject of this Referral. A federal judge specifically ordered the President, on more than one occasion, to provide the requested information about relationships with other women, including Monica Lewinsky. The fact that Judge Wright later deter-



Monica Lewinsky: gave explicit details of encounters

mined that the evidence would not be admissible at trial, and still later granted judgment in the President's favor, does not change the President's legal duty at the time he testified. Like every litigant, the President was entitled to object to the discovery questions, and to seek guidance from the court if he thought those questions were improper. But having failed to convince the court that his objections were well founded, the President was duty bound to testify truthfully and fully. Perjury and attempts to obstruct the gathering of evidence can never be an acceptable response to a court order, regardless of the eventual course or outcome of the litigation.

The Supreme Court has spoken forcefully about perjury and other forms of obstruction of justice. In this constitutional process of securing a witness's testimony, perjury simply has no place whatever. Perjured testimony is an obvious and flagrant affront to the basic concepts of judicial proceedings. Effective restraints against this type of egregious offense are therefore imperative. (24)

The insidious effects of perjury occur whether the case is civil or criminal. Only a few years ago, the Supreme Court considered a false statement made in a civil administrative proceeding: "False testimony in a formal proceeding is intolerable. We must neither reward nor condone such a 'flagrant affront' to the truth-seeking function of adversary proceedings. Perjury should be severely sanctioned in appropriate cases." (25) Stated more simply, "[p]erjury is an obstruction of justice." (26)

Third, the third limit is unique to the President. The Presidency is more than an executive responsibility. It is the inspiring symbol of all that is highest in American purpose and ideals. (27) When he took the Oath of Office in 1993 and again in 1997, President Clinton swore that he would "faithfully execute the Office of President." (28) As the head of the Executive Branch, the President has the constitutional duty to "take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed." (29) The President gave his testimony in the Jones case under oath and in the presence of a federal judge, a member of a co-equal branch of government; he then testified before a federal grand jury, a body of citizens who had themselves taken an oath to seek the truth. In view of the enormous trust and responsibility attendant to his high Office, the President has a manifest duty to ensure that his conduct at all times complies with the law of the land.

In sum, perjury and acts that obstruct justice by any citizen—whether in a criminal case, a grand jury investigation, a congressional hearing, a civil trial, or civil discovery—are profoundly serious matters. When such acts are committed by the President of the United States, we believe those acts "may constitute grounds for an impeachment."

The Scope of the Referral

1. Background of the Investigation. The link between the OIC's jurisdiction—as it existed at the end of 1997—and

namely, the much-publicized Castle Grande real estate project and related legal work by the Rose Law Firm, including the First Lady.

Against this background, the OIC considered the January 1998 allegations that: (i) Ms. Lewinsky was prepared to lie in order to benefit the President, and (ii) Vernon Jordan was assisting Ms. Lewinsky in the Jones litigation, while simultaneously helping her apply for a private-sector job with, among others, Revlon, Inc.

Based in part on these similarities, the OIC undertook a preliminary investigation. On January 15, 1998, this Office informed the Justice Department of the results of our inquiry. The Attorney General immediately applied to the Special Division of the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit for an expansion of the OIC's jurisdiction. The Special Division granted this request and authorized the OIC to determine whether Monica Lewinsky or others had violated federal law in connection with the Jones v. Clinton case.

2. Current Status of the Investigation. When the OIC's jurisdiction was expanded to cover the Lewinsky matter in January 1998, several matters remained under active investigation by this Office. Evidence was being gathered and evaluated on, among other things, events related to the Rose Law Firm's representation of Madison Guaranty Savings & Loan Association; events related to the firings in the White House Travel Office; and events related to the use of FBI files. Since the current phase of the investigation began, additional events arising from the Lewinsky matter have also come under scrutiny, including possible perjury and obstruction of justice related to former White House volunteer Kathleen Willey, and the possible misuse of the personnel records of Pentagon employee Linda Tripp.

From the outset, it was our strong desire to complete all phases of the investigation before deciding whether to submit to Congress information—if any—that may constitute grounds for an

impeachment. But events and the statutory command of Section 595(c) have dictated otherwise. As the investigation into the President's actions with respect to Ms. Lewinsky and the Jones litigation progressed, it became apparent that there was a significant body of substantial and credible information that met the Section 595(c) threshold. As that phase of the investigation neared completion, it also became apparent that a delay of this Referral until the evidence from all phases of the investigation had been evaluated would be unwise. Although Section 595(c) does not specify when information must be submitted, its text strongly suggests that information of this type belongs in the hands of Congress as soon as the Independent Counsel determines that the information is reliable.

All phases of the investigation are now nearing completion. This Office will soon make final decisions about what steps to take, if any, with respect to the other information it has gathered. Those decisions will be made at the earliest practical time, consistent with our statutory and ethical obligations.

The Referral consists of several parts. Part One is a Narrative. It begins with an overview of the information relevant to this investigation, then sets forth that information in chronological sequence. A large part of the Narrative is devoted to a description of the President's relationship with Ms. Lewinsky. The nature of the relationship was the subject of many of the President's false statements, and his desire to keep the relationship secret provides a motive for many of his actions that apparently were designed to obstruct justice.

The Narrative is lengthy and detailed. It is the view of this Office that the details are crucial to an informed evaluation of the testimony, and the reliability of other evidence. Many of the details reveal highly personal information: many are sexually explicit. This is unfortunate.

Continues on page 26

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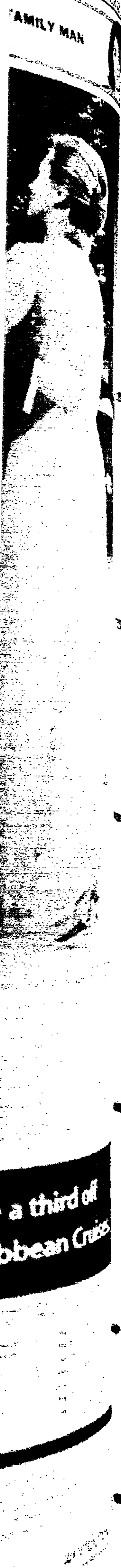
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THE STARR REPORT

'I never expected to find love with the President'

Continued from page 25
but it is essential. The President's defense to many of the allegations is based on a close parsing of the definitions that were used to describe his conduct. We have, after careful review, identified no manner of providing the information that reveals the falsity of the President's statements other than to describe his conduct with precision.

Part II of the Referral is entitled "Information that May Constitute Grounds for An Impeachment". This "Grounds" portion of the Referral summarizes the specific evidence that the President lied under oath and attempted to obstruct justice. This Part is designed to be understandable if read without the Narrative, although the full context in which the potential grounds for impeachment arise can best be understood if considered against the backdrop of information set forth in Part One.

Several volumes accompany the Referral. The Appendix contains relevant court orders, tables, a discussion of legal and evidentiary issues, background information on the Jones litigation, a diagram of the Oval Office, and other reference material. We next set forth a series of "Document Supplements", which attempt to provide some of the most important support material in an accessible format. Document Supplement A contains transcripts of the President's deposition testimony and grand jury testimony; Document Supplement B contains transcripts of Monica Lewinsky's testimony and interview statements; Document Supplement C, D, and E set forth the full text of the documents cited in the Referral. Although every effort has been made to provide full and accurate quotations of witnesses in their proper context, we urge review of the full transcripts of the testimony cited below.

1. Section 595(c) of Title 28 of the United States Code is part of the Ethics in Government Act. The section provides:
(c) Information relating to

impeachment. — An independent counsel shall advise the House of Representatives of any substantial and credible information which such independent counsel receives, in carrying out the independent counsel's responsibilities under this chapter, that may constitute grounds for an impeachment. Nothing in this chapter or section 49 of this title [concerning the assignment of judges to the Special Division that appoints an independent counsel] shall prevent the Congress or either House thereof from obtaining information in the course of an impeachment proceeding.

2. Ms. Jones also named Arkansas State Trooper Danny Ferguson as a defendant. For a detailed background of the Jones v. Clinton lawsuit, see the accompanying Appendix, Tab C.

3. In 1991, Ms. Jones was an employee of the Arkansas Industrial Development Corporation. Ms. Jones alleged that while at work at a meeting at the Excelsior Hotel that day, she was invited into a hotel room with Governor Clinton, and that once she was there, the Governor exposed his genitals and asked her to perform oral sex on him. Ms. Jones alleged that she suffered various job detriments after refusing Governor Clinton's advances. This Referral expresses no view on the factual or legal merit, or lack thereof, of Ms. Jones's claims.

4. Jones v. Clinton, 117 S. Ct. 1636, 1652 (1997).

5. The purpose of discovery in a civil lawsuit is to allow a broad search for facts, the names of witnesses, or any other matters which may aid a party in the preparation or presentation of his case. Fed. R. Civ. P. 26 advisory committee notes (1946). The discovery process allows the parties to obtain from their respective opponents written answers to interrogatories, oral testimony in depositions under oath, documents, and other tangible items so long as the information sought "appears reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence". Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(1).

6. 921-DC-0000461 (Dec. 11, 1997 Order at 3). Similarly, in a December 18, 1997 Order, Judge Wright noted that "the issue [was] one of discovery, not admissibility of evidence at trial. Discovery, as all counsel know, by its very nature takes unforeseen twists and turns and goes down numerous paths, and whether those paths lead to the discovery of admissible evidence often simply cannot be predetermined." 1414-DC-00001012-13 (Dec. 18, 1997 Order at 7-8).

7. V002-DC-00000020 (President Clinton's Responses to Plaintiff's Second Set of Interrogatories at 5).

8. V002-DC-00000053 (President Clinton's Supplemental Responses to Plaintiff's Second Set of Interrogatories at 2). During discovery in a civil lawsuit, the parties must answer written questions ("interrogatories") that are served on them by their opponent. Fed. R. Civ. P. 33. The answering party must sign a statement under penalty of perjury attesting to the truthfulness of the answers. Id.

9. For a brief discussion of the scope of the OIC's jurisdiction, see "The Scope of the Referral", below.

10. The full text of the Special Division's Order is set forth in the Appendix, Tab A.

11. Jones v. Clinton, Motion of the United States for Limited Intervention and a Stay of Discovery, at 6. The overlap in the proceedings was significant. Witnesses called before the grand jury in the criminal investigation had been subpoenaed by both parties to the civil case; defendant's counsel had subpoenaed information from the OIC; and the plaintiff's attorneys had subpoenaed documents directly related to the criminal matter.

12. Jones v. Clinton, Order, Jan. 29, 1998, at 2.

13. Id. 14. Id. at 2-3.

15. Id. at 3.

16. Jones v. Clinton, 993 F. Supp. 1217, 1222 (E.D. Ark. 1998) (footnote and emphasis omitted).

17. Jones v. Clinton, 990 F. Supp. 657, 679 (E.D. Ark. 1998).

18. In the course of its investi-



A banner makes its point to the President in Maryland this week as other politicians were left to weigh their chances should he leave office

gation, the OIC gathered information from a variety of sources, including the testimony of witnesses before the grand jury. Normally a federal prosecutor is prohibited by Rule 6(e) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure from disclosing grand jury material, unless it obtains permission from a court or is otherwise authorized by law to do so. This Office concluded that the statutory obligation of disclosure imposed on an independent counsel by 28 U.S.C. §595(c) grants such authority. Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, the OIC obtained permission from the Special Division to disclose grand jury material as appropriate in carrying out its statutory duty. A copy of the disclosure order entered by the Special Division is set forth in the Appendix, Tab B. We also advised Chief Judge

Norma Holloway Johnson, who supervises the principal grand jury in this matter, of our determination on that issue.

19. U.S. Const., art. I, § 2, cl. 5; art. I, § 3, cl. 6.

20. 28 U.S.C. § 594(a).

21. Before the grand jury, the President refused to answer certain questions about his conduct with Ms. Lewinsky on the ground that he believed the inquiries were unnecessary "and... I think, frankly, go too far in trying to criminalize my private life". Clinton 8/17/98 GJ at 94.

Others have argued that alleged "lies about sex" have nothing to do with the President's performance in office, and thus, are inconsequential. Former White House Counsel Jack Quinn articulated this view:

This is a matter of sex between consenting adults, and the question of whether or not one or the other was truthful about it... This doesn't go to the question of his conduct in office. And, in that sense, it's trivial.

John F. Harris, "In Political Washington, A Confession Consensus," Washington Post, Aug. 4, 1998, at A1 (quoting Quinn's statement on CBS's "Face the Nation").

The President echoed this theme in his address to the Nation on August 17, 1998, following his grand jury testimony:

I intend to reclaim my family life for my family. It's nobody's business but ours. Even Presidents have private lives. It is time to stop the pursuit of personal destruction and the prying into private lives and get on with our national life.

Testing of a President: In His Own Words, Last Night's Address, The New York Times, Aug. 18, 1998, at A12.

22. Clinton 1/17/98 Depo. at 9. As two commentators have noted: "[T]o the extent that discovery is permitted with respect to the sexual activities of either the complainant or the alleged harasser, courts likely will freely entertain motions to limit the availability of such information to the parties and their counsel and to prohibit general dissemination of such general data to third parties." See Barbara Lindeman & David D. Kadue, Sexual Harassment in Employment Law 563 (1992).

23. A sexual harassment case can sometimes boil down to a credibility battle between the parties, in which "the existence of corroborative evidence or the lack thereof is likely to be crucial." Henson v. City of Dundee, 682 F.2d 897, 912 n.25 (11th Cir. 1982). If there are no eyewitnesses, it can be critical for a plaintiff to learn in discovery whether the defendant has committed the same kind of acts before or since.

Thus, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission explained in a 1990 policy statement that the plaintiff's allegations of an incident of sexual harassment "would be further buttressed if other employees testified that the supervisor propositioned them as well." EEOC Policy Guidance (1990). The rules of evidence establish that such corroboration may be used to show the defendant's "motive, opportunity, intent, preparation, plan, knowledge, identity, or absence of mistake or accident." Fed. R. Evid. 404(b). In short, a defendant's sexual history, at least with respect to

other employees, is ordinarily discoverable in a sexual harassment suit.

24. United States v. Mandujano, 425 U.S. 564, 576 (1975) (plurality opinion).

25. ABF Freight Sys., Inc. v. NLRB, 510 U.S. 317, 323 (1994).

26. United States v. Norris, 300 U.S. 564, 574 (1937). There is occasional misunderstanding to the effect that perjury is somehow distinct from "obstruction of justice." While the crimes are distinct, they are in fact variations on a single theme: preventing a court, the parties, and the public from discovering the truth. Perjury, subornation of perjury, concealment of subpoenaed documents, and witness tampering are all forms of obstruction of justice.

27. See Eugene Lyons, Herbert Hoover: A Biography 337 (1964) (quoting Hoover).

28. U.S. Const., art. II, § 1, cl. 8.

29. U.S. Const., art. II, § 3, cl. 8. See also George Washington, Second Inaugural Address, March 4, 1793:

Previous to the execution of any official act of the President the Constitution requires an oath of office. This oath I am now about to take, and in your presence. That if it shall be found during my administration of the Government I have in any instance violated willfully or knowingly the injunctions thereof, I may (besides incurring constitutional punishment) be subject to the upbraids of all who are now witnesses of the present solemn ceremony.

Inaugural Addresses of the Presidents of the United States, H.R. Doc. No. 82-540, at 4 (1954).

30. Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v. Sawyer, 343 U.S. 579, 653-54 (Jackson, J., concurring).

31. Jordan, House Testimony, 7/24/97, at 46.

32. From April through November 1994, 17 different persons or entities retained Mr. Hubbell as a consultant. In 1994, he collected \$450,010 for this work. In 1995, he collected \$91,750, despite beginning a 28-month prison term in August of that year.

1. Nature of President Clinton's Relationship with Monica Lewinsky

A. Introduction

This Referral presents substantial and credible information that President Clinton criminally obstructed the judicial process, first in a sexual harassment lawsuit in which he was the defendant and then in a grand jury investigation. The opening section of the Narrative provides an overview of the object of the President's cover-up, the sexual relationship between the President and Ms. Lewinsky. Subsequent sections recount the evolution of the relationship chronologically, including the sexual contacts, the President's efforts to get Ms. Lewinsky a job, Ms. Lewinsky's subpoena in Jones v. Clinton, the role of Vernon Jordan, the President's discussions with Ms. Lewinsky about her affidavit and deposition, the President's deposition testimony in Jones, the President's attempts to coach a potential witness in the harassment case, the President's false and misleading statements to aides and to the American public after the Lewinsky story became public, and, finally, the President's testimony before a federal grand jury.

B. Evidence Establishing Na-

ture of Relationship

1. Physical Evidence

Physical evidence conclusively establishes that the President and Ms. Lewinsky had a sexual relationship. After reaching an immunity and cooperation agreement with the Office of the Independent Counsel on July 28, 1998, Ms. Lewinsky turned over a navy blue dress that she said she had worn during a sexual encounter with the President on February 28, 1997. According to Ms. Lewinsky, she noticed stains on the garment the next time she took it from her closet. From their location, she surmised that the stains were the President's semen. (1) Initial tests revealed that the stains are in fact semen. (2) Based on that result, the OIC asked the President for a blood sample. (3) After requesting and being given assurances that the OIC had an evidentiary basis for making the request, the President agreed. (4) In the White House Map Room on August 3, 1998, the White House Physician drew a vial of blood from the President in the presence of an FBI agent and an OIC attorney. (5) By conducting the two standard DNA comparison tests, the FBI Laboratory concluded that the President was the source of the DNA obtained from the dress. (6) According to the more sensitive RFLP test, the genetic markers on the semen, which match the President's DNA, are characteristic of one out of 7.87 trillion Caucasians. (7) In addition to the dress, Ms. Lewinsky provided what she said were answering machine tapes containing brief messages from the President, as well as several gifts that the President had given her.


2. Ms. Lewinsky's Statements

Ms. Lewinsky was extensively debriefed about her relationship with the President. For the initial evaluation of her credibility, she submitted to a detailed "profiler" interview on July 27, 1998. (8) After entering into a cooperation agreement, she was questioned over the course of approximately 15 days. She also provided testimony under oath on three occasions: twice before the grand jury, and, because of the personal and sensitive nature of particular topics, once in a deposition. In addition, Ms. Lewinsky worked with prosecutors and investigators to create an 11-page chart that chronologically lists her contacts with President Clinton, including meetings, phone calls, gifts, and messages. (9) Ms. Lewinsky twice verified the accuracy of the chart under oath. (10)

In the evaluation of experienced prosecutors and investigators, Ms. Lewinsky has provided truthful information. She has not falsely implicated the President. Harassing him, she has testified, is "the last thing in the world I want to do." (11)

Moreover, the OIC's immunity and cooperation agreement with Ms. Lewinsky includes safeguards crafted to ensure that she tells the truth. Court-ordered immunity and written immunity agreements often provide that the witness can be prosecuted only for false statements made during the period of cooperation, and not for the underlying offense. The OIC's agreement goes further, providing that Ms. Lewinsky will lose her immunity altogether if the government can prove to a federal district judge — by a preponderance of the evidence, not the higher standard of beyond a reasonable doubt — that she lied. Moreover, the agreement provides that, in the course of such a prosecution, the United States could introduce into evidence the statements made by Ms

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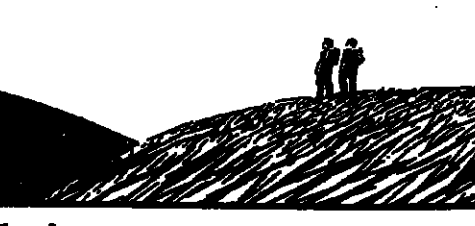
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THE STARR REPORT



'He used to lean against a door to ease his back'

Lewinsky during her cooperation. Since Ms. Lewinsky acknowledged in her proffer interview and in debriefings that she violated the law, she has a strong incentive to tell the truth: If she did not, it would be relatively straightforward to void the immunity agreement and prosecute her, using her own admissions against her.

3. Ms. Lewinsky's Confidants Between 1995 and 1998, Ms. Lewinsky confided in 11 people about her relationship with the President. All have been questioned by the OIC, most before a federal grand jury: Andrew Bleiler, Catherine Allday Davis, Neysa Erbland, Kathleen Estep, Deborah Finerman, Dr. Irene Kassoria, Marcia Lewis, Ashley Raines, Linda Tripp, Natalie Ungvari, and Dale Young. (12) Ms. Lewinsky told most of these confidants about events in her relationship with the President as they occurred, sometimes in considerable detail. Some of Ms. Lewinsky's statements about the relationship were contemporaneously memorialized. These include deleted email recovered from her home computer and her Pentagon computer, email messages retained by two of the recipients, tape recordings of some of Ms. Lewinsky's conversations with Ms. Tripp, and notes taken by Ms. Tripp during some of their conversations. The Tripp notes, which have been extensively corroborated, refer specifically to places, dates, and times of physical contacts between the President and Ms. Lewinsky. (13)

4. Documents In addition to her remarks and email to friends, Ms. Lewinsky wrote a number of documents, including letters and draft letters to the President. Among these documents are (i) papers found in a consensual search of her apartment; (ii) papers that Ms. Lewinsky turned over pursuant to her cooperation agreement, including a calendar with dates circled when she met or talked by telephone with the President in 1996 and 1997; and (iii) files recovered from Ms. Lewinsky's computers at home and at the Pentagon. (14)

5. Consistency and Corroboration The details of Ms. Lewinsky's many statements have been checked, cross-checked, and corroborated. When negotiations with Ms. Lewinsky in January and February 1998

(sometimes calling from her White House office). (14) Ms. Lewinsky showed no indications of delusional thinking, according to Dr. Kassoria, and Dr. Kassoria had no doubts whatsoever about the truth of what Ms. Lewinsky told her. (15) Ms. Lewinsky's friend Catherine Allday Davis testified that she believed Ms. Lewinsky's accounts of the sexual relationship with the President because "I trusted in the way she had confided in me on other things in her life. . . . I just trusted the relationship, so I trusted her." (16) Dale Young, a friend in whom Ms. Lewinsky confided starting in mid-1996, testified:

"If she was going to lie to me, she would have said to me, 'Oh, he calls me all the time. He does wonderful things. He can't wait to see me.' . . . [S]he would have embellished the story. You know, she wouldn't be telling me, 'He told me he'd call me. I waited home all weekend and I didn't call anything and he didn't call and then he didn't call for two weeks.' (17)

6. Physical Evidence Because of the fashion in which the investigation unfolded, in sum, a massive quantity of evidence was available to test and verify Ms. Lewinsky's statements during her proffer interview and her later cooperation. Consequently, Ms. Lewinsky's statements have been corroborated to a remarkable degree. Her detailed statements to the grand jury and the OIC in 1998 are consistent with statements to her confidants dating back to 1995, documents that she created, and physical evidence. (18) Moreover, her accounts generally match the testimony of White House staff members; the testimony of Secret Service agents and officers; and White House records showing Ms. Lewinsky's entries and exits, the President's whereabouts, and the President's telephone

calls. C. Sexual Contacts 1. The President's Accounts a. Jones Testimony In the Jones deposition on January 17, 1998, the President denied having had "a sexual affair," "sexual relations," or "a sexual relationship" with Ms. Lewinsky. (19) He noted that "[t]here are no curtains on the Oval Office, there are no curtains on my private office, there are no curtains or blinds that can close [on] the windows in my private dining room," and added: "I have done everything I could to avoid the kind of questions you are asking me here today. . . ." (20)

2. Ms. Lewinsky's Account In his grand jury testimony, the President relied heavily on a particular interpretation of "sexual relations" as defined in the Jones deposition. Beyond insisting that his conduct did not fall within the Jones definition, he refused to answer questions about the nature of his physical contact with Ms. Lewinsky, thus placing the grand jury in the position of having to accept his conclusion without being able to explore the underlying facts. This strategy - evidently an effort to account for possible traces of the President's semen on Ms. Lewinsky's clothing without undermining his position that he did not lie in the Jones deposition - mandates that this Referral set forth evidence of an explicit nature that otherwise would be omitted.

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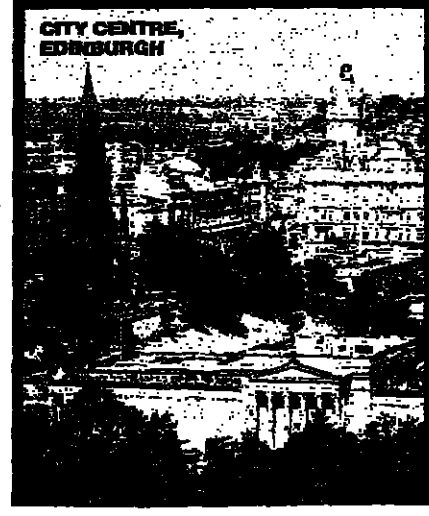
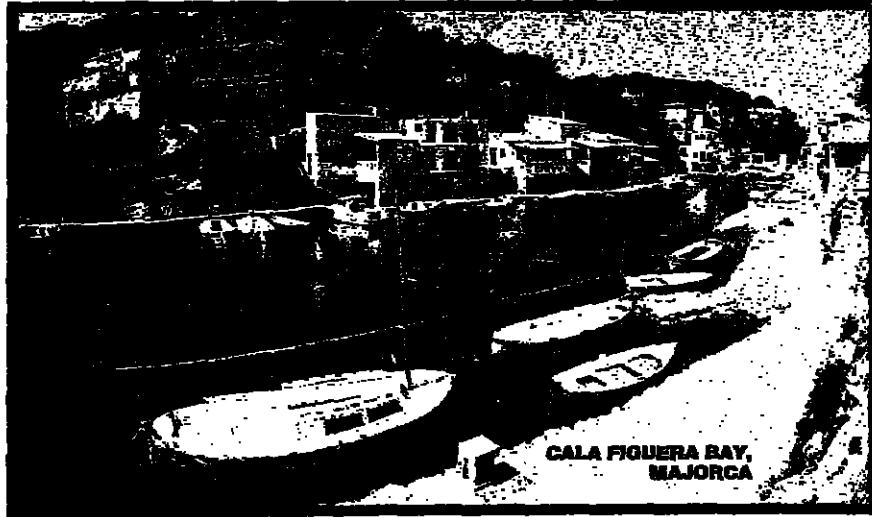
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CHANGING TIMES

THE TIMES SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12 1998

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Private life, public prop...

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A friendly note from the...

Sacrebleu! Proust in striptease?

Ben Macintyre sees the sense of reading a classic in cartoon captions

Marcel Proust's seven-volume masterpiece, *A la Recherche du Temps Perdu*, is the greatest novel written in French, and arguably any other language, this century. It is a sacred text, an unparalleled feat of imagination, a colossal yet subtle fictional edifice exploring feeling, time, thought, art and memory.

It is also, as of last week, a best-selling French comic-strip drawn by an advertising agency artist named Stéphane Heuet. The publication of *Combray*, the first volume of the cartoon Proust, has naturally occasioned some of the roughest notices ever written in French, and arguably any other language.

Alain de Botton, offering Proust's "advice" on subjects ranging from love to looking at paintings. Every attempt to understand Proust involves a reduction and adaptation, some more radical than others.

Heuet's comic-strip is not intended for people who have read Proust, but for those who have not and who might, as a result, feel moved to do so. *A la Recherche du Temps Perdu* is undeniably daunting. Alongside Stephen Hawking and James Joyce, the work of Proust has been gingerly picked up, started and then guiltily abandoned by millions, some of whom are no doubt reading this and already huffing over the indignity of turning Proust into a comic-strip.

Some very brilliant people could not see the point of Proust on a first reading, such as André Gide, who later heartily regretted it. Jacques Madaelaine the aptly named reader for the publisher Fasquelle, declared after 712 pages that he had not "a single clue of what this is about. What is the point of all this? What does it all mean?"

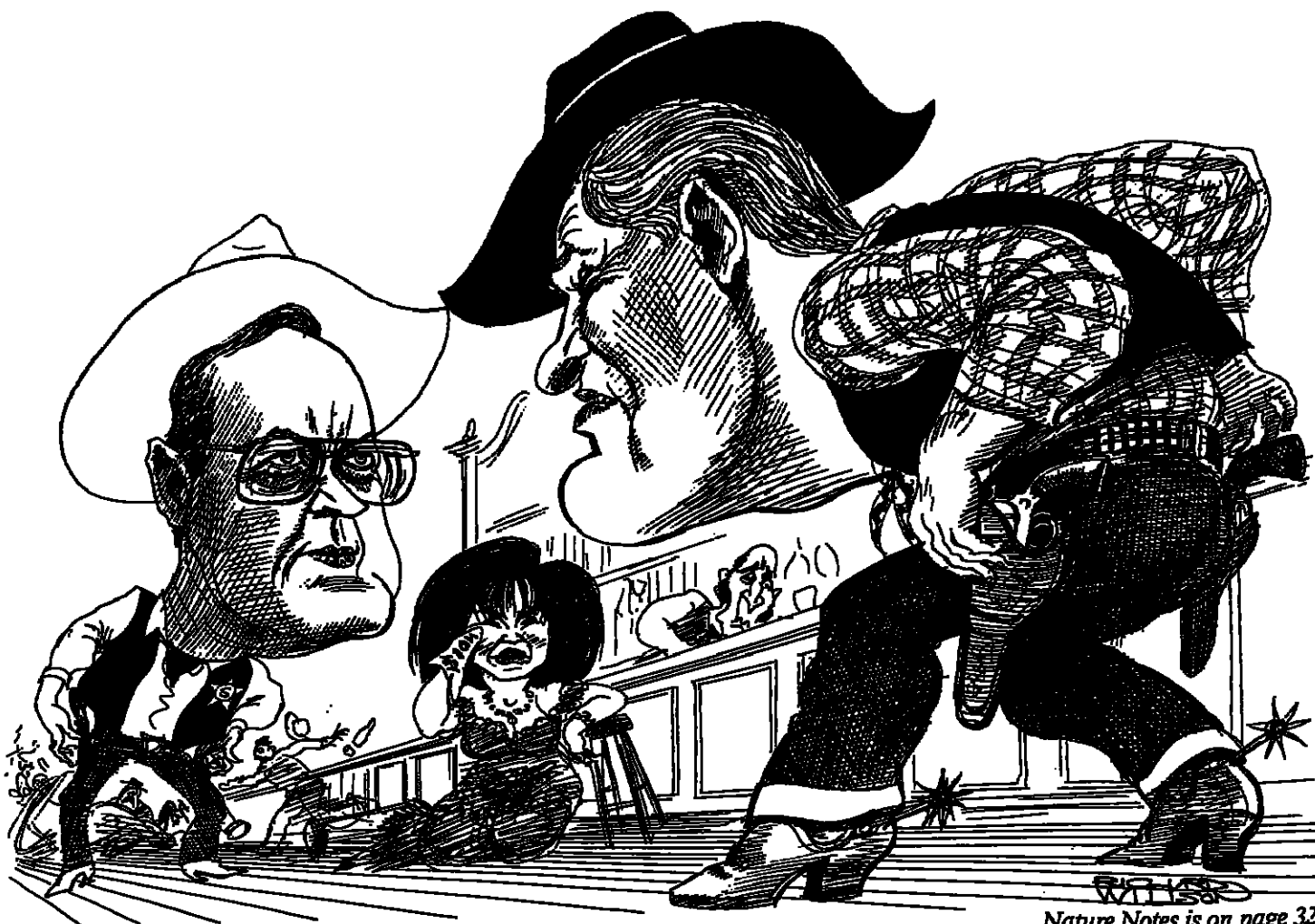
The difficulty of Proust has made him a weapon of snobbery. "Rock stars and footballers are supposed to be *idiots savants*. We're not supposed to have read Proust," said Sting in a recent interview. Many are put off Proust before they start, and are thus denied one of the greatest pleasures of literacy.

Heuet's attackers insist that by simplifying, visualising and truncating Proust he is making this most enigmatic work explicit and mundane, convincing lazy readers that they have "done Proust" when they have done nothing of the sort. But Heuet argues: "There are millions of people who die without ever experiencing the greatness of this work because they can't get past the first 50 pages."

Some 15,000 copies of the first volume of *A la Recherche du Temps Perdu* are still bought every year in France. The new cartoon version has already sold out its first print-run of 12,000 copies. Many of the buyers are children or teenagers, according to the publishers, and some will go on to read the original. When the *Hunchback of Notre-Dame* was turned into a Disney animated cartoon, critics bemoaned the desecration of a classic, but sales of Victor Hugo's novel, largely unread until then, boomed.

Proust would doubtless have resented seeing his life's work reduced to one-dimensional images, his 3,000 pages of beautifully wrought prose hacked into jumps, but the comic-strip might also have appealed to his sense of the ridiculous. He understood and defined how the imagination could expand infinitely from a simple image, taste or smell. He knew the most unlikely reading-matter could be inspirational, the start of an exciting mental journey. This was a man who read train timetables in bed, "to imagine himself alighting from the train on an autumn evening".

Perhaps a simplistic comic-strip accompanied by even mere snippets of the writer's prose might, for some, be the start rather than the end of a journey into Proust.



Nature Notes is on page 32.

Lying in State

We pillory the private deceits instead of the public failings of politicians

A nuclear power wanders leaderless. Its President appears slow and puffy-eyed on television, frantic to save himself from impeachment. The Constitution is tested to the limit. Dark forces of reaction manipulate the nation's assembly. Nobody has a clue what is going to happen. For Russia at the start of the week read America at the end.

Mother Russia will muddle through, whatever the boys' plot in Moscow. Yesterday's astonishing events in Washington are more dangerous. The American Constitution is the proxy constitution to the world. Its leader embodies global law and order. The United Nations and Nato are pawns in his hand. The last three American Presidents have all unleashed massive violence in asserting their authority, often without warning, consultation or legislation. Their might is unchecked by countervailing power, on a scale unknown in history.

As of this morning, the majority of Americans continue to treat Bill Clinton the holder of the office of President as distinct from Bill Clinton the man. As President, he still holds their respect, as he does that of the rest of the world. He has conducted America's economic diplomacy with prudence. He has struggled to uphold freedom wherever he has seen it threatened. I am not aware that Mr Clinton has broken treaties or gone back on promises. In Northern Ireland his offers of help have been sincere. He cannot be called a bad President.

Yet Mr Clinton the President is facing a constitutional coup at the hands of Mr Clinton the sex addict. To adapt the Nixonian phrase, he has given his foes the sword. These foes make no allegation of faulty statesmanship. No charges are directed at Mr Clinton's programme, public support for which is higher than for any second-term President in modern times. Every one of yesterday's 11 charges stems from the most intimate aspect of the President's private life, his sexual behaviour. The scene is the classic nightmare. The President escapes into insincerity, then into half-truth. He stumbles into half-lie, is caught by perjury, falls foul of subpoena and collapses into conspiracy. It may have been "only a baby sin, Your Reverence". But the Devil has gone to war for less.

I do not care whether Bill Clinton the man is finally brought down by the purulent Mr Starr. He clearly suffers from a syndrome common to men in power, an addiction to women who also suffer an addiction to power. To seize an initial lie about his sex life to trap him on an escalator of mendacity does not require much ingenuity. The trick is familiar to any tabloid journalist or tort lawyer. In this league, many are called but few are fallen. Mr Clinton had had luck.

What we should care about is the ease with which a President can have the trick played on him. This week's events have all the qualities of a Wild West gunfight. The bone of contention, some row over a woman, has long been left behind with the smashed bottles in the saloon. Any sense of proportion has vanished. All that now matters is who draws fastest and shoots straight. This is a trial by combat, outlawed in the 13th century but surviving in that reliquary of politics, the American Constitution. God stands with whoever is victor. The process is claimed as constitutional, but every well-tooled coup claims that.

The wisest comment on the Starr inquiry comes from congresswoman Elizabeth Holtzman, who wrote the new Independent Counsel Act after Watergate. She points out that it was designed to help Congress when the President tried to impede his impeachment on a charge of "treason, bribery or other high crimes and misdemeanours". She wrote in last month's *New York Times*, "I never dreamed that a special prosecutor would be using his enormous powers to investigate accusations about a President's private (and legal) sexual conduct."

Mr Starr had taken an accusation that Mr Clinton had lied about his sex life in a civil case unrelated to the Whitewater inquiry, and used it to depict the President as a congenital liar. His aim was to revive the ailing Whitewater inquiry. Mr Starr was not so much investigating a "high crime" as behaving as an agent provocateur, "manufacturing the circumstances" in which his victim might commit an offence. I am no particular admirer of Mr Clinton or his clique. But the process to which he has been subjected seems as much an offence against justice as his own frantic attempt to stave off his tormentors. Not allowing him to see the evidence against him before the grand jury was astonishing. Mr Clinton's friends, secretaries, bodyguards and even doormen were ordered to be witnesses against their boss. No private advice or conversation could be regarded as confidential. The ease with which American law slides into McCarthyism is truly frightening. As the legal philosopher, Thomas Nagel, wrote in the *TLS* last month, privacy in human relations at work as well as home is essential "to permit creatures as complex as ourselves to interact without constant social breakdown". The present cult of letting it all hang out, indeed putting it all on the Internet, strips public figures of all contact with their inner selves and puts even the most private faults in the pillory. The Americans are turning their Presidents and their advisers into Orwellian automatons. Such fault-exaggeration could be applied, with enough money and legal artifice, to most people in public life. Nobody achieves high office without cutting corners, mildly deceiving family, friends and public, telling the odd fib in the rough and tumble of cross-questioning. Without such deceits, newspapers would go bankrupt and biographers starve. Few may indulge in the exotic activities alleged of Mr Clinton and Ms Lewinsky, though from what we know of Roosevelt and Kennedy, they were not alone. "Lies" are told daily in the dealings of government, though we

Simon Jenkins

The cost of freeing a killer

Simon Barnes says one whale isn't worth it

My heart leaps up when I behold a cetacean in the sky. Whose could not? One of my great wildlife sightings of the year, of a lifetime: a member of that endangered species, the Ganges river dolphin, leaping clear of the water — one of those white and spooky crouching beasts that live blind lives in the mud and the murk. Or the heartlift when I met grey whales on the Californian coast, when the great fork of the tail flukes broke the surface. You'd have to be less than human to fail to respond. Me, I cheered.

So why, then, do I feel such exasperation at the current goggle-eyed fascination with the story of Keiko the killer whale? I have spent a lot of time and energy trying to persuade people that saving animals is a good idea. Why am I so grumpy about saving Keiko?

I should be glad that the film *Free Willy* has stirred so many hearts. The animal in question, whether you call it an orca or a killer whale, is not the most cuddleable beast. If you saw David Attenborough's *The Trials of Life* you will remember — could hardly forget — the killer whales beaching themselves in a seal colony like berserk landing craft.

But *Free Willy* encouraged people to take the killers to their hearts: and the subsequent story of the non-fictional whale's plight touched their hearts yet again. Which is all very nice, really, and they have coughed up £7.5 million to take Keiko back to Iceland and to release him into the seas of his birth.

There is a confusion here, or a perhaps a collision between the notions of animal welfare and conservation. I am a great supporter of both, as it happens. The two things are hardly incompatible. But all the same: £7.5 million. You could use that money to secure forever, say, the Mafia Marine Reserve in Tanzania, with its dugong, turtles, seabirds and complex coral and mangrove ecologies. Or you could spend it here, to fund for five years the entire Biodiversity Action Plan, joint brainwave of government and conservation groups. You could in one fell swoop arrest the decline of turtle dove and bullfinch, and at the same time safeguard plants like purple ramping fumitory and greater water parsnip. But they have yet to make a sexy movie about purple ramping fumitory.

Or if you want to use the money especially for whales, then you must invest in even more boring, even less sexy things — such as the World Wide Fund for Nature's work with the International Whaling Commission. Protection from casual slaughter is the best thing we can do for whales: but it makes a terrible movie. Just people in suits squabbling. A lot of conservation is like that. Or invest in the difficult science connected with what conservationists call Persistent Organic Pollution, which makes whales sterile. Not the material for a high-class weepy of a movie I grant you, but quite useful in the saving of actual whales.

My heart is in conservation all right. But there is a very great difference between sentiment and sentimentality. What we have with Keiko is a classic case of devotion worthy of a better cause. Oh, it's great that people feel so strongly about this fine, this totemic animal. But really — £7.5 million. What about the purple ramping fumitory, that's what I say.

Secret service?

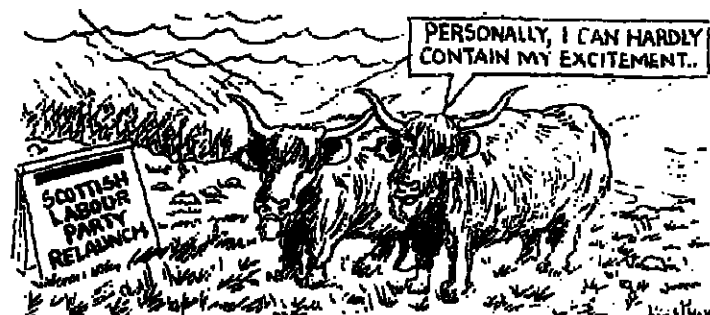
WHAT mysterious circles Alan Duncan snakes around. My spook friends inform me that the diminutive Conservative rightwinger MP passed through the portals of M15 earlier this week on a matter of national import. The former spin-doctor to William Hague was thought to operate as a Controller known as W. (operational name: Widdecombe) in his official capacity as Shadow Health spokesman. But does Duncan (below right) serve two masters? What was the sensitive business which detained him on Monday afternoon? "I am unable to confirm any such report," he tells me unhesitatingly. Was he casting a glance over a private file of his lurid past as a playboy international oil trader?



Or explaining his previous sympathy for decriminalising hard drugs? "No comment." Is he on some James Bond-type mission to save the Western world? "You are straying into the realms of fantasy. Enjoy it," he says enticingly.

Rupert Allason, Duncan's former colleague who disguises spy novels under the name Nigel West, is intrigued: "It is extraordinary for an MP who is merely an Opposition spokesman to meet M15. If any surreptitious exchange of information

was taking place it would not happen on official property. Nor would he be entitled to see his personal file. He could easily say what it was all about. Meet me in the underground car park at Diary Towers, Alan, and make a clean breast of it for the good of the nation.



● CONGRATULATIONS to a Virginia Nimarkoh, a creative type, who has pocketed a £1,500 prize from the London Arts Board for a video-camera to take holiday snaps. Oh, Nimarkoh is also a "visual arts assessor" for the board.

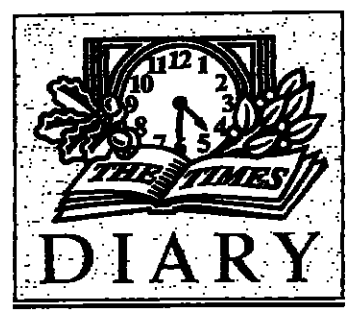
Stepping out

THE indomitable Michael Foot has been reunited with his best friend. After suffering a nasty fall (off a bus), Foot's injuries seemed too serious for him to walk. Dizzy, his beloved dog named after Disraeli, over Hampstead Heath, Friends urged the 85-year-old to leave the mutt at a retirement home in Norfolk. Foot is now back with Dizzy, walking at dawn. "He is a phenomenon," says a friend. "He only rests when he is in hospital."

● POETS Laureate are rare in soccer, but in Gary Lineker I thought I detected gentle cognitive activity. Launching his Favourite Football Stories, he left a different impression. "I don't have the imagination to write a book," he said. One story not included is how Bobby Robson calmed England's penalty-takers during the 1990 World Cup against Germany. "We had four volunteers and Chris Waddle. Bobby's advice: 'Don't let me down — 30 million are watching.'"

All revealed

IMAGINE the surprise of the chalk-striped, effete Jamie Palumbo when he picked up *Ministry*



JASPER GERARD



spin-doctor, has weaned himself off pies and fags at a secret Umbrian health farm and returned to the Red Lion a well advert for clean living. "I had a month of tennis and swimming. I've lost well over a stone," he says, nursing a spritzer.

Soiled goods

THE Prince of Wales will have to carry the royal pooper-scooper when he next hunts with the Beaufort. Cotswold District Council has adopted a bylaw under which the Master of the Hunt will be fined up to £1,000 for each unattended piece of hound deposit. Captain Ian Farquar, the Master, understands pollution. He is charged with soiling a river in which thousands of protected crayfish perished.

● AS AMERICA debated Kenneth Starr's salacious report about the President on the Internet, senators were discussing "legislative proposals to protect children from inappropriate material" on the Net.

Weasel words

IN TRUE American tradition, Clinton's apology has spawned an entire book. *The Clinton Enigma: A Four-and-a-Half Minute Speech Reveals This President's Entire Life* is by David Maraniss, a Pulitzer prizewinner. "It deconstructs every sentence in his 540-word speech, showing how it sprang from his history. I wanted to expurgate Clinton from my life. I'm beginning to feel sorry for the President."



VIVIENNE WESTWOOD is a fine actress, according to her biographer, Jane Mulvagh, who was asked to write the forthcoming book by the couturière but has since been disowned, says: "It dawned on me that, despite her public persona, she was not an eccentric, but had quite determinedly cultivated that reputation." All, says Mulvagh, to ape Westwood's equally barney former lover, Malcolm McLaren, who she would coo over "like a love-struck teenager" (he was manager of that easy listening combo, the Sex Pistols). Westwood is married to Andreas Kronthaler — "half her age" — because "for all her barricade agitprop and peculiar modernity she is, at heart, a bitter romantic". The writer-muse relationship worsened: "Vivienne is not a woman to nurture lasting ties with her own sex," says Mulvagh, who has produced a distinctly unofficial study. "She has crushes that wane, and while she is attracted to assertive women, she soon tires of their independence." It all sounds rather stifling. "She spurned her young son's Mother's Day flowers (I hate daffodils), and I felt wounded by her coldness." So how has the subject reacted? "She wants it to be known," I am told, "that she asked Jane not to write the book."

سكزا من الأهل



COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE. September 11: The Prince Edward, President of the Commonwealth Games Federation, today undertook the following engagements in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for the XVI Commonwealth Games. His Royal Highness this morning visited the Royal Selangor Pewter Factory, makers of the Commonwealth Games medals, before visiting the British High Commission to meet the staff. The Prince Edward this afternoon visited the International Zone of the National Sports Complex, Bukit Jalil, toured the facilities and had Lunch with the Athletes. His Royal Highness later opened the rebranded Alton Smith School at the Equine Park Campus. The Prince Edward this evening attended the Opening Ceremony of the XVI Commonwealth Games at the National Sports Complex and read the Message from The Queen.

Birthdays

TODAY: Mr Bertie Ahern, Prime Minister of the Republic of Ireland, 51; Miss Maria Aitken, actress, 53; Sir Lindsay Alexander, former deputy chairman, Lloyds Bank, 78; Viscount Allendale, 76; Mr Nicholas Barber, Principal, Rada, 58; Colonel Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel, KT, former Lord-Lieutenant of Inverness, 88; Mr Alan Cathcart, chairman and chief executive, Avis, Europe, 55; Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Compston, 83; Professor Ronald Hedley, educationist, 81; Sir Ian Holm, actor, 67; Lord Milner of Leeds, 75; The Right Rev Alan Rogers, former Bishop of Mauritius, 91; the Right Rev Frank Pilkington Sargeant, Bishop at Lambeth, 66; Mr Robert Simpson, chief executive, The Press Association, 54; Sir Arthur Sugden, former chief executive officer, Co-operative Wholesale Society, 80; Sir Gervas Walker, former chairman, Association of County Councils, 78; Professor George Zarneski, FBA, art historian, 83.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr S.J. Arthur and Miss R.A. Felde. The engagement is announced between Stephen James, only son of Mr Robert Arthur, of Cambridge, and of Mrs Barbara Cleverly and stepson of Mr Peter Cleverly, of Debenham, Suffolk, and Rebecca Anne, only daughter of the late Goesta Felde and of Mrs Felde, of Ramsey, Isle of Man.

Mr R. Callow and Miss L. Waight. The engagement is announced between Robert, son of the late Mr J.F. Callow and of Mrs Rosemary Callow, of Hastings, East Sussex, and Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ronnie Waight, of Claverham Manor, Berwick, East Sussex.

Mr R.A.E. Dainoff and Miss A.M. Harding. The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr and Mrs Edward Dainoff, of London, and Alexandra, daughter of Dr and Mrs Michael Harding, of London.

Mr N.D.W. Fearn and Miss K.D. Cafferty. The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs Arthur Fearn, of Teworth, Bedfordshire, and Kelly, daughter of Mr and Mrs Vincent Cafferty, of Tampa, Florida.

Mr J.G.C. Footner and Miss L.J. Malone. The engagement is announced between Jeremy, son of Mr and Mrs George Footner, of Lymington, and Lucy, daughter of the late Dr Malone and of Mrs Malone, of Melbourne, Australia.

Mr C.J.B. Harper and Miss S.H. Winsley-Greene. The engagement is announced between Charles, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Harper, of Herefordshire, and Sarah, only daughter of Mr Nicholas Winsley-Greene, and Mrs Gavin Smith, of Durham, South Africa.

Dr M.K.W. Johnston and Miss G. Farlow. The engagement is announced between Malcolm, eldest son of Mr and Mrs A.F. Johnston, of Ceredigion, and youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs P. Furlong, of New Ross, Co Wexford, Eire.

The Hon N.J. Kesteven and Mrs S.P. Henderson. The engagement is announced between Michael-John, son of Lord Brabourne and Countess Mountbatten of Burma, and Penny, daughter of Mr and Mrs S.C. Coates, of Epperstone, Nottinghamshire.

Mr M.I. Lamont and Miss N. Holmes. The engagement is announced between Murray, son of Mr and Mrs Iain Lamont, of Glenfield, Auckland, New Zealand, and Nahulie, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Holmes, of New Gardens, Surrey.

Mr H. McCurrich and Miss E. Robbins. The engagement is announced between Hugh, son of Mr and Mrs Laurence McCurrich, of Rushock, Worcestershire, and Eve, daughter of Mr and Mrs Pat Robbins, of Stenfield, Suffolk.

Mr O.J. Ryder and Miss A.J. Crook. The engagement is announced between Oliver, younger son of Mr and Mrs Denny Ryder, of East Moon, Hampshire, and Annabel, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Crook, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire.

Dr T.A. Stout and Dr S.S. Mathias. The engagement is announced between Tom, only son of Mr and Mrs T.V. Stout, of Gwaelod-y-Garth, Glamorgan, and Susanna, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs J.R. Ravenscroft, of Hodnet, Shropshire.

Mr A.C.L. Wildsmith and Dr S.E.V. Martin. The engagement is announced between Alan, son of Mr and Mrs David Wildsmith, of Bussage, Gloucestershire, and Sophie, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Martin, of Upwood, Cambridgeshire.

TOMORROW: The Marquess of Ailsa, 42; Miss Carol Barnes, broadcaster, 54; Miss Jacqueline Bisset, actress, 54; Lieutenant-General Sir Derek Boomman, 68; Sir George Engle, QC, former First Parliamentary Counsel, 72; Baroness Fisher of Rednal, 79; Mr Niall FitzGerald, chairman, Unilever, 53; Lord Flowers, FR.S., 74; Mr George Foggan, former Foreign Office adviser, 85; Professor Sir John Gunn, natural philosopher, 82; the Duke of Hamilton, 60; Mr Goran Ivanisevic, tennis player, 27; Lord Moylsham, 43; the Right Rev George Noakes, former Archbishop of Wales, 74; Mr Tony Pickard, tennis coach, 64; Sir Thomas Risk, former Governor, Bank of Scotland, 76; Mr Robert Sheldon, MP, 78; Mr George Staple, former Director, Serious Fraud Office, 58; Mr James Stuart-Smith, QC, former Judge Advocate General, 79; Professor Sir Keith Sykes, anaesthetist, 73; Mr Keith Thompson, former Vice-Chancellor, Staffordshire University, 66; Mr Mel Tormé, singer, 73; Mr Shane Warne, cricketer, 29; Lord Weidenfeld, 79.

Marriages

Mr J.C.A.D. Buchan of Auchmacoy and Miss S.J. McArthur. The marriage took place yesterday at St Margaret's, Cley-near-the-Sea, Norfolk, of Mr Charles Buchan, Younger of Auchmacoy, eldest son of Captain David and the Hon Mrs Buchan of Auchmacoy, Aberdeenshire, to Miss Sharon McArthur, daughter of the late Captain George McArthur and of Mrs Miriam McArthur, of Hales, The Rev Philip Norwood officiated. The bride, who was given in marriage by Mr David McArthur, was attended by George McArthur and Cordelia and Matilda Ruck. Mr Toby Gordon was best man. A reception was held at Bayfield Hall, Norfolk.

Mr D.B. Denton and Miss H.E. Morris-Eyton. The marriage took place on Saturday, September 5, 1998, at St Mary's Church, Whicham, Milford, Cumbria, of David, twin son of the late Mr Hugh Denton and of Mrs Patricia Anderson, of Farnish, Northampton, and Helen, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Jack Morris-Eyton, of Milton, Cumbria. The reception was held at The Bankfield Country House Hotel and the honeymoon is being spent in Florida.

Mr D.K. Jaffrey and Miss S.J. Stagnell. The marriage took place on Saturday, September 12, 1998, at Fawley Church, Fawley, between Mr Darren Jaffrey, son of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Jaffrey, of Chobham, and Miss Samantha Stagnell, daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Stagnell, of Walton-on-Thames. The Rev Melanie Toogood officiated. Surgeon Commander L.J. Jarvis, RN, and Dr P.A.L. Gordon. The marriage took place yesterday, September 11, in the church of St George, in the parish of Surgeon Commander Lionel John Jarvis, RN, to Dr Penelope Anne Leth Gordon. A service of blessing is being held today at St Luke's Church, The Royal Hospital, Haslar, following the reception in the Medical Officers' Mess. Mr M. Pugsley and Miss C. Thomas. The marriage took place on August 30, 1998, at Plympton St Maurice Parish Church, Devon, of Mr Martin Pugsley, son of Lieutenant Commander and Mrs John Pugsley, to Miss Catherine Thomas, only daughter of the Reverend and Mrs Theodore Thomas.

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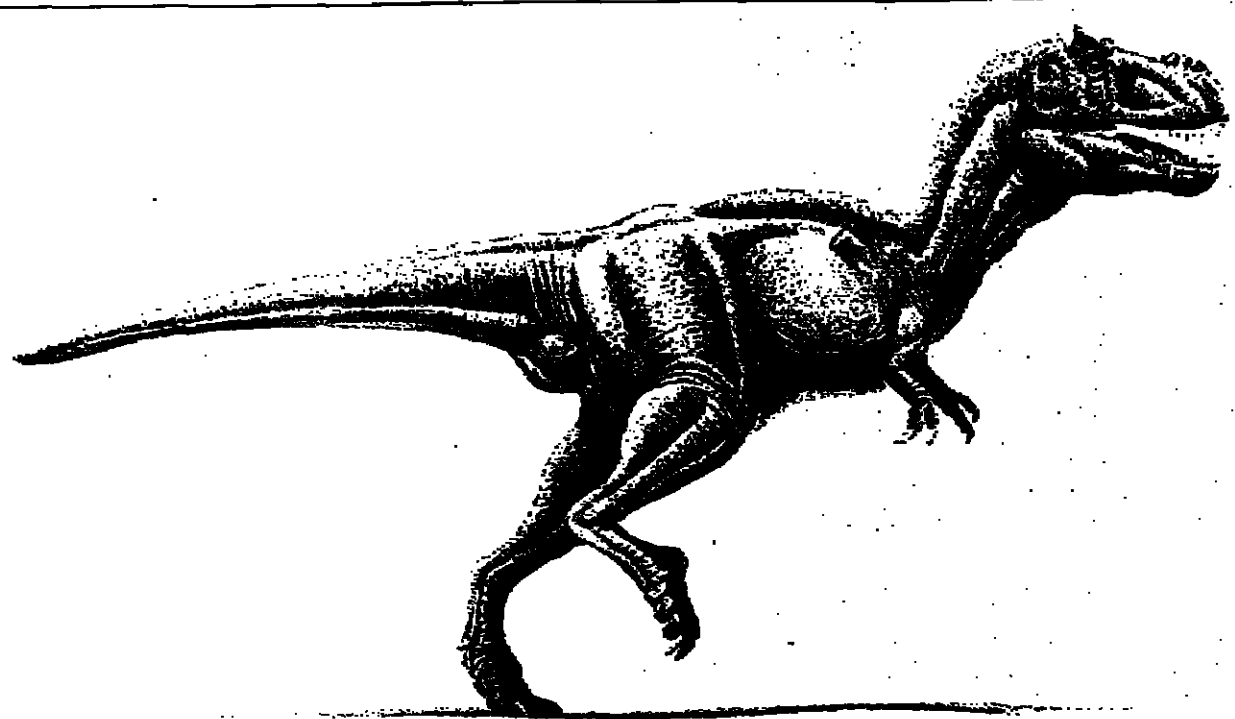
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Memorial service. Vice-Admiral Sir Fitzroy Talbot A memorial service for Vice-Admiral Sir Fitzroy Talbot was held yesterday at the Minster Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Ilminster, Somerset. The Rev John Reed officiated. Ms Melissa Charrington read the lesson. Mr Ashton Shuttleworth read from William Shakespeare's *Cymbeline*, and Mr Alastair Forbes read an extract from *The Fair Prodigy* by D.W. Nash. Captain Val Bailey, RN, gave an address. Members of the family, friends and former colleagues were among those present.

Professor Cecil Grayson. A Memorial Service for Professor Cecil Grayson, CBE, FBA, MA, will be held in the Chapel of Magdalen College, Oxford, on Saturday, October 24, 1998, at 3pm.

Dinners. Corporation of London. The Prime Minister of the Côte d'Ivoire attended a dinner given by the Corporation of London and the International Cocoa Organization last night at Guildhall to mark the 25th anniversary of the International Cocoa Organization. The Lord Mayor and the Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire were the speakers.



Tyrannosaurus rex: footprints, right, of the carnivorous dinosaur are shown meeting a smaller herbivore and may establish whether T. Rex was a hunter or a scavenger.

In the footprints of giants



Iguanodon and young of cretaceous period

A discovery in Bolivia may alter our ideas about the dinosaurs, Gabriella Gamini reports

AN UNWITTING discovery by Bolivian cement factory workers has been identified as the world's most extensive and well preserved site of dinosaur footprints, providing scientists with spectacular new evidence of the habits of prehistoric giants. Christian Meyer, a Swiss palaeontologist, said: "It's a palaeontological jewel." He is among a team of European scientists who have spent the past weeks analysing thousands of prints embedded on a vast, vertical, limestone quarry wall, uncovered at a cement plant outside the colonial city of Sucre, in the Andean foothills.

Giuseppe Lorenzetti, another team member, said: "There are more than 15,000 individual prints scattered over the sedimentary wall." They belong to about 170 different species of dinosaurs who lived along the shores of a lake, which lay under what is now a line of central Andean hills. "If it had not been for the fact that this was turned to land for cement extraction, it would never have been found," the scientists said.

The fossilised prints scattered among signs of algae and fish life are invaluable new sources for the study of the movements and eating habits of species who lived in the cretaceous period, between 68 and 150 million years ago. The site is also several times larger than one found in Turkmenistan dating back 25 million years. "One clear print sequence shows an ankylosaurus in rapid movement," Mr Meyer said. Apparently these are the first such tracks of the species found. The ankylosaurus was a carnivore that looked like a giant toad with bony rings and spines around the neck. Fossils of its bones had until now only been found in north Africa.

"The longest trail of steps is the walk to drink water made by two adult iguanodon. Their footprints are about 80cm in diameter," Mr Meyer said. "We have also identified the tracks that show the giant carnivorous tyrannosaurus rex meeting a smaller herbivore, presumably his prey." According to Mr Meyer, these tracks will be useful to find an answer to the debate over whether the tyrannosaurus was a hunter or a scavenger. "We have made a map outlining every print and fossil and will spend the next months studying them carefully," he said. The experts expect to find prints of several previously unknown species.

The first footprints were noticed across the vertical face of the Fancesa cement factory quarry, five miles outside of Sucre, several years ago. Workers at the factory recall seeing oddly shaped prints when they started hacking away at the Cal Orka hill in 1960. An earthquake which had shaken the stone city built by Spanish conquistadors had forced local people to start building with concrete. But the superstitious quarrymen kept quiet about their find, fearing the oddly shaped indentations were marks left by legendary animal gods, revered by their Inca ancestors. It was only because they came across magnesium, unsuitable for cement production, that they stopped cutting away at the wall.

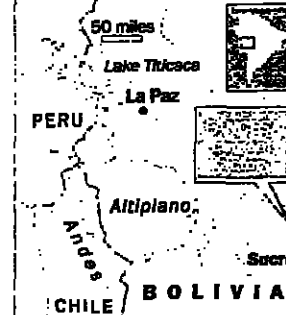
It was the curiosity of a local palaeontology buff, who was told of the strange tracks, that eventually brought the footprints to the experts' attention. Klaus Schut, a Bolivian professor of German descent, made a video of the tracks two years ago which he sent to the Natural History Museum in the capital La Paz. "I knew that the wall was a prehistoric treasure as soon as I saw it, but here in Bolivia my efforts to bring attention to them fell on deaf ears," he recalls. "It was only when my video was shown at a palaeontology meeting in Germany two months ago that light was shed on the discovery."

Professor Schut now wants to see the limestone quarry wall turned into a protected, natural history site, thus boosting Sucre's depressed economy. "Who knows? The prehistoric giants could ironically bring our backward city to world attention," he said. "We could build a cretaceous park and make it a point of attraction for visitors." He is heading the warnings from scientists that unless steps are taken to preserve the wall, the footprints will disappear fast. Wind, rain and soil erosion could cause them to vanish within three years. The palaeontologists have also said that the areas so far unexcavated around the quarry conceal fresh discoveries. They have urged the cement factory to stall from the area, because they are turning fossils into cement blocks. But while Unesco has promised a \$50,000 fund and the Swiss Government has offered a similar sum, the future of the world's largest site where dinosaurs roamed still remains uncertain. Those involved in the state-owned cement factory are immersed in a heated debate about ownership of the prints. Some insist that cement production — the main employer in Sucre — cannot be stalled to preserve "long dead dinosaurs". Others are competing to profit by charging for viewing rights to the site. As they argue, the footprint-covered wall, now open to the elements, is beginning to crumble. Pieces of limestone baked by the sun are continually being dislodged in the piercing Andean winds.



Klaus Schut, a palaeontology enthusiast who recognised the importance of the site, points out the tracks of two iguanadons

found in Turkmenistan dating back 25 million years. "One clear print sequence shows an ankylosaurus in rapid movement," Mr Meyer said. Apparently these are the first such tracks of the species found. The ankylosaurus was a carnivore that looked like a giant toad with bony rings and spines around the neck. Fossils of its bones had until now only been found in north Africa.



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The first footprints were noticed across the vertical face of the Fancesa cement factory quarry, five miles outside of Sucre, several years ago. Workers at the factory recall seeing oddly shaped prints when they started hacking away at the Cal Orka hill in 1960. An earthquake which had shaken the stone city built by Spanish conquistadors had forced local people to start building with concrete. But the superstitious quarrymen kept quiet about their find, fearing the oddly shaped indentations were marks left by legendary animal gods, revered by their Inca ancestors. It was only because they came across magnesium, unsuitable for cement production, that they stopped cutting away at the wall.

It was the curiosity of a local palaeontology buff, who was told of the strange tracks, that eventually brought the footprints to the experts' attention. Klaus Schut, a Bolivian professor of German descent, made a video of the tracks two years ago which he sent to the Natural History Museum in the capital La Paz. "I knew that the wall was a prehistoric treasure as soon as I saw it, but here in Bolivia my efforts to bring attention to them fell on deaf ears," he recalls. "It was only when my video was shown at a palaeontology meeting in Germany two months ago that light was shed on the discovery."

Professor Schut now wants to see the limestone quarry wall turned into a protected, natural history site, thus boosting Sucre's depressed economy. "Who knows? The prehistoric giants could ironically bring our backward city to world attention," he said. "We could build a cretaceous park and make it a point of attraction for visitors." He is heading the warnings from scientists that unless steps are taken to preserve the wall, the footprints will disappear fast. Wind, rain and soil erosion could cause them to vanish within three years. The palaeontologists have also said that the areas so far unexcavated around the quarry conceal fresh discoveries. They have urged the cement factory to stall from the area, because they are turning fossils into cement blocks. But while Unesco has promised a \$50,000 fund and the Swiss Government has offered a similar sum, the future of the world's largest site where dinosaurs roamed still remains uncertain. Those involved in the state-owned cement factory are immersed in a heated debate about ownership of the prints. Some insist that cement production — the main employer in Sucre — cannot be stalled to preserve "long dead dinosaurs". Others are competing to profit by charging for viewing rights to the site. As they argue, the footprint-covered wall, now open to the elements, is beginning to crumble. Pieces of limestone baked by the sun are continually being dislodged in the piercing Andean winds.

Luncheon

Lloyd's Register. The Lord Mayor, accompanied by Mr Alderman and Sheriff Michael Oliver, was the guest of honour at a luncheon held yesterday at Trinity House given by Mr Patrick O'Ferrall, Chairman of Lloyd's Register.

Service dinner

The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire Officers, Warrant Officers and Sergeants of the 3rd Battalion, The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire held a dinner at Srensall, York, to bid farewell to Colonel E.A.K. Denison, Honorary Colonel.

School news

King's College School, Cambridge. Term has begun at King's College School with a record number of children (297) at the school. There are 104 girls and 193 boys including 33 boarders. The new Headmaster is Mr Nicholas Robinson (formerly Housemaster of St Bede's, Worth School). As part of the first phase of the current building development programme, the new Design Technology centre is now in operation. King's College Choir has returned from a successful tour to Hong Kong and Australia. For further details regarding choristerships, or places for day/boarding pupils ring the school secretary on tel: 01223-365814 or fax 01223-461388.

Notices about Giggleswick School, Harrogate Ladies College, and Kethy College will be published on Monday

Superior stamina leads Graf to a grand slam finish

From Rex Bellamy in New York. Steffi Graf, aged 19, beat Gabriela Sabatini 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 in the women's singles at Flushing Meadows. Graf won more than £160,000 and completed a grand slam of the Australian, French, Wimbledon, and United States singles championships.

In those tournaments Graf won 227 matches and lost sets only to Martina Navratilova at Wimbledon and to Sabatini here. The first German to win either of the US singles titles, Graf is also the fourth woman to achieve a grand slam in singles and the third to do so within a calendar year.

Borrowed from bridge, the grand slam is a media invention and had no official standing until six years ago. It had been commonly accepted, though, that the feat must be completed within a calendar year. Maureen Connolly and Margaret Court did that. During the 1970s the calendar year concept became untenable because the Australian championships jumped about from December to January, sometimes overlapping two calendar years or leaving the odd year with only three grand slam tournaments. So the International Tennis Federation, with the approval of other governing bodies, devised the first and only official definition.

The solved the Australian problem by declaring that a grand slam consisted of holding all four titles at the same time: a feat achieved by Navratilova from the 1983 Wimbledon to the 1984 French championships. Graf should improve, too. Physically she is mature and an awfully endowed, highly trained athlete. Experience should produce technical refinements and enhanced

ON THIS DAY

September 12, 1988

Steffi Graf was one of the great tennis champions and a favourite of the crowds. After the grand slam in 1988 she went on to win many more titles and has only recently been eclipsed by a younger generation.

wisdom and composure as a match-player. Graf should emulate Rod Laver by winning a second grand slam, but would be the last to take that for granted.

Sabatini, 11 months younger, has given Graf a series of close matches and, this year, has beaten her twice. Moreover, Sabatini has more scope for improvement: most evidently, in terms of fitness and stamina.

It was this comparative weakness that made the third set of the final more one-sided than it might have been. Graf was then playing her best tennis, after an error-strewn second set, and Sabatini could not stay with her. Sabatini's command of top-spin has always made her unusually difficult to attack. As a result of sound coaching and hard work in the past year, the first Argentinian woman to reach a grand slam singles final has also become more confident and competent when serving and volleying — more at finishing rallies, as distinct from merely playing them. This match, though, was mostly played from the base-line. Graf was stronger, fitter. At the end Sabatini no longer had the energy or took the initiative to shorten the rallies — as she obviously needed to.



Graf playing for the title at Wimbledon in 1988

صكزا من الأهل

OBITUARIES

T. J. SMITH

Thomas John (TJ) Smith, MBE, AM, racehorse trainer, died in Sydney on September 2, aged 79. He was born on September 3, 1918.

Australia has long had a love for horses, for gambling, and for a battler who makes good. And Tommy TJ Smith satisfied national dreams with his astonishing rise from uneducated, outback poverty, to become a multi-millionaire trainer with a unique gift for sizing up a horse.

Frustrated in his ambition to be a jockey, he found his metier when he switched to training, becoming one of the most brilliant achievers the Australian turf had seen.

Smith remained something of a maverick, impatient of authority and the snobbery of the racing establishment, but he became so influential a figure that in the end the establishment had to embrace and honour him, while the nation loved his irrepressible approach.

The 2,000 congregation at his funeral at Sydney's St. Mary's Cathedral was surprised to hear Father Hugh Walsh explain that Smith, widely seen as tough and self-centred, had taken up the collection every Sunday in the small Catholic Church of St. Joseph, Edgecliff, keeping a promise made to his adored mother that he would go to church every Sunday.

Thomas John Smith was born on a property outside Braidwood, in southern New South Wales, the second of seven children of Neil and May Smith, of English-Irish background. The horse was central to their lives: both Smith's parents were skilled riders, his father being known as a horse-breaker and competitor in buckjumping events.

The eldest of five sons, Smith was given a pony at the age of five, and as a youngster was soon kept home from



T.J. Smith with his daughter Gai Waterhouse, herself a successful trainer, and their horse Inspired Lass

school to help family earnings with work ranging from woolcarting to scrub-clearing, road-building and timberhauling. In his early teens, he traded in a prized bullwhip to buy a calf which he fed with grain 'souvenired' from haulage loads worked by his father. He sold it to buy a rail ticket to Melbourne, giving his mother the rest of the proceeds and announcing he was leaving home, and would never come back.

Smith was apprenticed as a

jockey to trainer Mack Sawyer, but he soon found he lacked the ability needed on the track, and he eventually returned to the country to oversee a horse property for Sawyer. The youngster found an untraced thoroughbred running free in the hills of the property; he bought him from Sawyer, named him Bragger, and after training he became the first of thousands of Smith winners in Sydney, at Rosehill in March 1942.

Bragger won more races, and Smith collected substantial betting winnings, but the delights of big city high life rapidly ate into his new affluence, as he enjoyed girls and gambling, as well as indulging in expensive clothes including perky hats and bow ties which became a trademark.

At one point, Smith could not scrape up the £3 nomination fee for Bragger's next race. He played two-up until 3 in the morning and won £14, going on to Randwick racecourse at 5am to exercise his horse. After paying the fee, he put the remaining £11 on Bragger, who duly won. Smith recorded: 'I won a hatful - I'd set him for this race. I vowed I'd never be broke again. And I haven't.'

reaching 176 in 1976, and usually doubling the tally of his nearest rival.

Abrasive and individualistic, and a master of self-promotion, he had various conflicts with stipendiary stewards, surviving potential setbacks in 1950 by appealing successfully against disqualification after his horse Sunshine Express tested positive to a dope swab, and in 1954 when Tarien, winner of the AJC Doncaster, was disqualified, but Smith himself was exonerated.

In 1955 he burst into the national limelight by training the Melbourne Cup winner, Topanua, and won Australia's greatest race again in 1981 with Just a Dash. Smith won a record six Golden Slipper - an important Sydney event - plus 35 of the various State versions of the Derby.

He claimed to have recorded 7,000 race wins, but the achievement which gave him most satisfaction was to develop Tulloch and Kingston Town from yearlings ignored by the turf world into two of Australia's best horses. Colleagues and competitors agreed that Smith's success stemmed from an incredible eye for a horse linked to an astonishing memory for detail, thorough organisational skills for both horses and staff, alongside shrewd business sense - and above all, a horseman's feeling for horses.

Smith's status was sealed at Randwick in 1992 when he was presented to the Queen as the winning trainer of Antiquity in the Queen's Cup. But he had already marked his place in society when he married Valerie Finlayson, product of a privileged Sydney lifestyle including a private school education. He was appointed MBE and AM (Member of the Order of Australia).

He is survived by his wife and a daughter, Gai Waterhouse, who took over the Smith stable in the 1980s and became one of Australia's best-known trainers.

MILESTONES



disappeared from the recording scene until she returned two years ago with a critically-acclaimed album, accompanied on the guitar by her son Oliver Knight. *Obituary published on September 9.*

Akira Kurosawa, Japanese film director, died in Tokyo on September 7 aged 88. He was born on March 23, 1910.

Akira Kurosawa almost single-handedly introduced Japanese cinema to the West, when his film *Rashomon* won the Golden Lion award at the 1951 Venice Film Festival. Kurosawa combined an epic historical vision with a deep feeling for humanity. He freely acknowledged the influence of Hollywood and a number of his films were remade in the West, notably *The Seven Samurai* (1954), which became *The Magnificent Seven* in 1960. Kurosawa often drew on Western literary

Roy Bradford, writer and MP for Stormont, 1965-73, died on September 2 aged 77. He was born on July 7, 1921.

Roy Bradford was a member of the ill-fated Northern Ireland Assembly of 1973-74. He was part of the liberal camp which followed Brian Faulkner into talks with the largely Catholic Social and Democratic Labour Party (SDLP) in an effort to reach some sort of power-sharing devolved government following the abolition of Stormont. But this prospect was dealt a fatal blow when the Prime Minister, Edward Heath, called a snap general election at the height of the miners' strike. His political career over, Bradford concentrated on writing novels and other books.

Obituary published on September 7.

Lal Waterson, folksinger and songwriter, died of cancer on September 4 aged 55. She was born on February 15, 1943.

Lal Waterson abandoned a career in graphic art to form the Watersons with her brother, sister and a cousin. After starting with skiffle, they concentrated on original folksong. The Sixties and Seventies were their heyday; Lal Waterson had



sources for inspiration: thus *The Throne of Blood* (1957) was a version of *Macbeth* transposed to 16th-century Japan, while the epic *Ran* (1984) was an adaptation of *King Lear* with sons substituted for the daughters and a transvestite cabaret artist as the Fool. *Obituary published on September 7.*

LORD MARKS OF BROUGHTON



Lord Marks of Broughton with the last of his wives, Marina

The 2nd Baron Marks of Broughton died on September 9 aged 78. He was born on August 20, 1920.

A GRANDSON OF the co-founder of Marks & Spencer, Michael Marks himself played little or no part in the life of the firm. He held, however, a very substantial shareholding in the company, worth at least £30 million, having inherited that (together with his peerage) from his father - the formidable Simon Marks, the 1st Baron Marks of Broughton - on the latter's death in 1964. Although he himself had no appetite or inclination to follow in his father's footsteps, fortunately by

then the continued family leadership of the business was already secure. His high-powered cousin, Marcus (now Lord) Sieff, had joined Marks & Spencer as long ago as 1935 and rose steadily as his uncle Simon presided over the board. He eventually succeeded another uncle as chairman in 1972, holding that post until 1984. Even had he felt so disposed, there was thus little need for Michael Marks - only seven years younger than his Sieff cousin - to become involved.

But, in fact, he was never remotely tempted by such a life anyway - once famously describing himself as "a fugitive from a chain store". He saw

his role as being creative and literary - in 1975 he had a work of "imaginative prose" published by Faber entitled *The Prince of the Golden Apple*. Almost ten years before that he had founded a charitable trust that distributed hundreds of thousands of pounds annually to artistic and environmental causes. He also painted and wrote poetry and in his earlier years maintained contact with the family business by dropping in at the canteen in Marks's Baker Street headquarters, where he would eat a 1s 6d lunch and in a soft voice read his latest poems to members of the staff (who, not surprisingly, were reported to listen in rapt attention).

Although he was undoubtedly an eccentric, Michael Marks started life conventionally enough. He was sent to school at St Paul's and went on from there to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, where he read modern languages. He first came to public attention through his marriages, of which he eventually went through five. He did not, however, rush into matrimony, waiting until he was 29 to marry for the first time. His bride then was Ann Pinto, a collateral connection of the Rothschild family, and this marriage, the only one of the five to produce any children, lasted from 1949 to 1957. On their divorce, his former

wife was given custody of their son and two daughters. His other marriages - including ones to third and fourth wives from both Japan and China - tended to be brief, though he was always generous when he felt the moment had come to part. He married for the last time in 1992 a 38-year-old Greek divorcee Marina Collins (nee Sakalakis) who looked after him at his home in St John's Wood as he became increasingly physically frail and mentally confused. She survives him, together with a young stepson. His own son Simon from his first marriage now becomes the 3rd Baron Marks of Broughton.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

DEATHS

BEYTON - Pat, on Thursday September 10th 1998, much loved by Miles, Sarah, Grace, Michael and Graham (Deceased). Funeral Service at Kestelburgh Church, Suffolk on Thursday September 17th, at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired may be sent to Suffolk Coastal Crossroads, c/o Moore Brothers, 13 Station Road, Suffolk, IP13 9EA.

BIRTHS

ASHE - On September 8th at The Portland Hospital to Jackie (nee Sayth) and Rupert, a son, Marcus, a brother for Isabel.

BRENNAN - On September 4th at The Portland Hospital to Maureen (nee Noonan) and Michael, a son, Michael Jr, a brother for Maggie.

FOLEY - On September 10th to Emma and Steve, a daughter, Isabel Kate.

GORDON-ROACH - On September 7th at The John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, to Katy and David, a daughter, Isabella Catherine.

KERSHAW - On September 8th at The Portland Hospital to Clare and David, a daughter, Emma Selina, a sister for Tom.

KESTING - On Thursday 3rd September to Brian and Graham, a daughter, Felicity May Georgia.

LEWIS - On September 4th at The Portland Hospital to Samantha and Laurie, a daughter, Charlotte Elizabeth, a sister for Max and Kit.

LODGE - On 4th September to Emily (nee Estock) and Andrew, a son, George Edward Arthur.

WEICH - On September 9th to Nicole (nee Lowe) and Peter, a son, Thomas Claran.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES
Hugh Brendan Devlin and Ann Elizabeth Devlin married on 13th September 1958. Married 40 years and still in North Yorkshire, TS15 9JZ, congratulations.

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TICKETS FOR SALE

ALL AVAL, M.C.S., 2, Elmwood, 2, Elmwood, London, E15 2JL. Tel: 0171 554 0295.

FOR SALE

A BRIDGEWAY Newspaper Original, 1997-1998. Tel: 0171 554 0295.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

CARRIBAN Beraga, Fantastic 2 weeks of inclusive holiday for 2 people on beautiful tropical island. Tel: 0171 554 0295.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

DENSON - A celebration of life for the late Mrs. Denson. Tel: 0171 554 0295.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

DICKINSON - A Service of Thanksgiving for the late Mrs. Dickinson. Tel: 0171 554 0295.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

BARNARD - In loving memory of Mary Barnard. Tel: 0171 554 0295.

FLATSHARE

ALEXANDRA PARK 2 professional to share 1/3rd floor flat. Tel: 0171 554 0295.

FLATSHARE

FLATSHARE (2nd 1970). See photo. Tel: 0171 554 0295.

FLATSHARE

WANTED: Room for rent. Tel: 0171 554 0295.

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s.27 of the Trustee Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against the TRUSTEE in the TRUSTEE ACTS of the deceased person mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned being the date specified after which the claim shall be barred by the provisions of the Act shall be deemed to have been accepted by the trustee.

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COMBAT STRESS

Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society. Tel: 0171 554 0295.

Spoil yourself

THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL. Tel: 0171 554 0295.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

75 is no age to be leaving home. Tel: 0171 554 0295.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

EX

NEWS

Clinton 'broken-spirited' as Starr report hits the Internet

In 445 pages, the Starr report set out sensational details of the sexual relationship between Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky and urged Congress to remove him from the presidency of the United States.

Kenneth Starr, the special prosecutor, accused Mr Clinton of "criminal misconduct" in trying to cover up his affair and said that he "engaged in a pattern with conduct inconsistent with his constitutional duty to faithfully execute the laws".

Tears welling in his eyes and head bowed, Mr Clinton told religious leaders that he would pursue the path of humility and repentance with a "broken spirit". Pages 1-5, 21-27, 28, 29

Pop pensioners at 35

Pop stars are lobbying the Inland Revenue to allow them to draw on their pensions at 35. Page 1

Bargain boating

A sailor told how Moroccan customs officials seized his £150,000 yacht and sold it for £150 to one of their colleagues. Page 3

GCSE marking errors

More than 6,000 teenagers will be given improved GCSE grades after an examination board admitted that errors had been made in three subjects. Page 11

Terrorists freed

The first terrorist prisoners walked free as part of Northern Ireland's peace deal, but Republican leaders said that more should have been released. Page 12

Look north for laughs

The BBC is searching for a new generation of sitcom writers with a northern accent. Page 16

Trapped farmer cut off his arm

A farmer cut off his forearm with a pocket knife to save his life after his hand was trapped in a baling machine. John Mitson, 46, retrieved his mangled hand from the machine and carried the remnants to a nearby house. Page 15

Bad boy of bowls

A bowls international who likes to compare himself to John McEnroe and Paul Gascoigne has been banned for ten years for swearing at officials. Page 17

But is it art?

New York's 144 strip clubs, porn shops and peep shows are slowly being closed or forced to move to isolated industrial areas but X-rated material is flourishing in another unlikely venue: the art world. Page 18

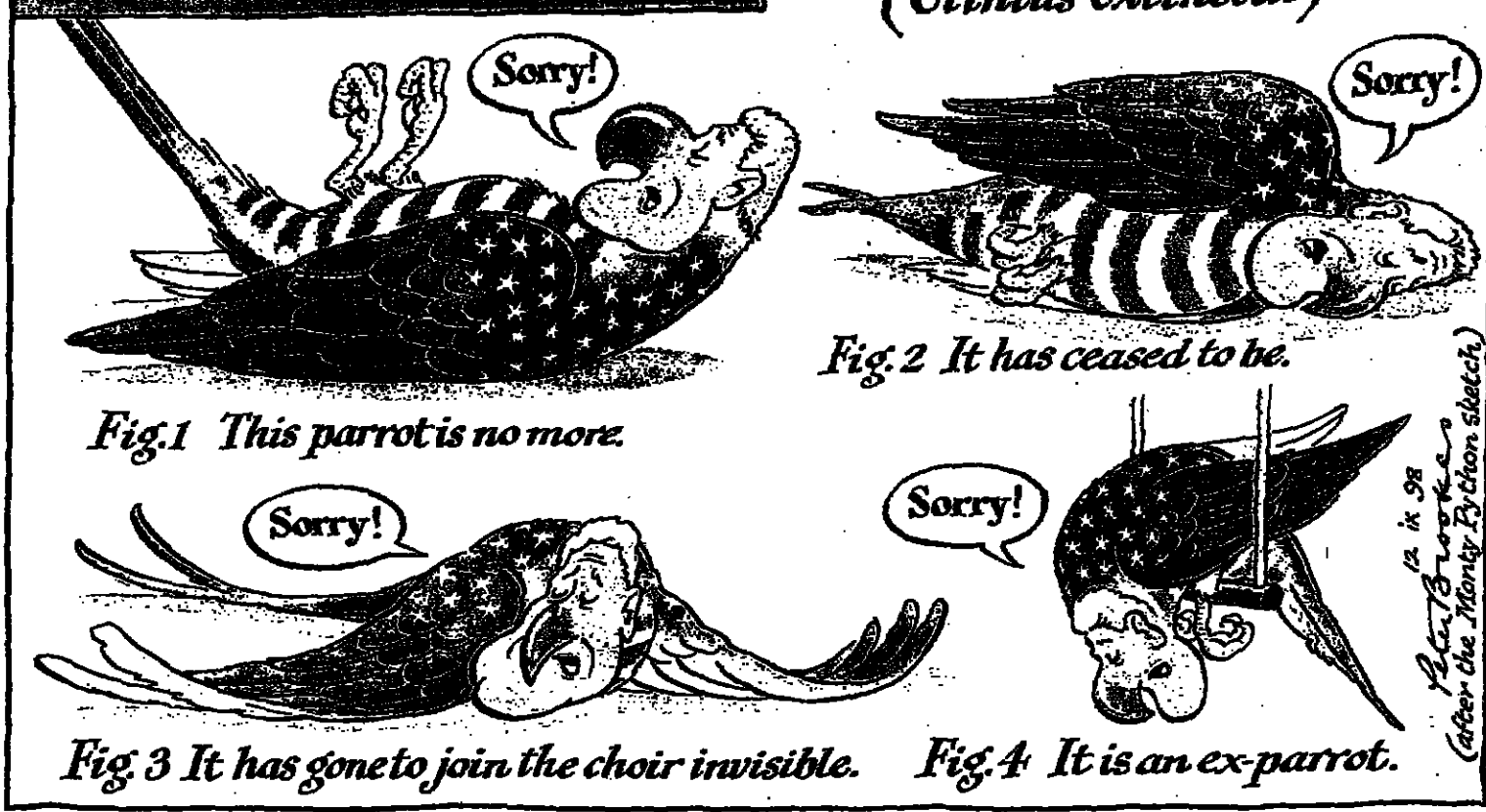
New PM for Russia

Yevgeni Primakov was voted Russia's Prime Minister after the country's leaders gave a rare show of unity for the new Government. Page 19

Fight for soul

A legal tussle is coming to a head over the fate of Giorgio Bassani, Italy's foremost living writer, who is alleged to be suffering from senile dementia. Page 20

NATURAL NOTES



FALL OF CLINTON

Martin Fletcher: Bill Clinton is among the most gifted politicians of his age... and might have been one of the most distinguished occupants of the Oval Office had it not been for his human flaws...

OPINION

How America got here: The President has to persuade his country that the charges are excessive and he has really changed as a result of this experience. Page 29

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: I am no particular admirer of Mr Clinton or his clique. But the process to which he has been subjected seems as much an offence against justice as his own frantic attempt to stave off his tormentors. Page 28

BUSINESS

Rich legacy: William Ford Jr is to take over the reins of the car company that was founded by his great-grandfather, Henry Ford. Page 49

SPORT

Football: Peter Leaver, the chief executive of the Premier League, is to attend talks with Uefa on the re-vamping of European club competitions. Page 33

AA INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions. UK Weather - All regions 0336 444 910. AA Car reports by fax. 0336 410 399

FORECAST

General: heavy showers will spread eastwards across England and Wales. Around Britain yesterday. 24 hrs to 5 pm.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table with columns for location, sun, rain, cloud, etc. for various UK locations.

ABROAD

Table with columns for location, sun, rain, cloud, etc. for various international locations.

HIGH TIDES

Table with columns for location, AM, HT, PM, HT for various UK locations.

SECTION

the times magazine

Ghost writer: Tom Wolfe proves hard to fathom. Page 18. Bacon's legacy: New to hemians keep the artist's spirit alive. Page 32.

THEIR

The big interview: Ed Burns is Hollywood's most-likely-to-everything. Page 6. Anger in her pants: Natalie Merchant needs to lighten up. Page 10.

WEEKEND

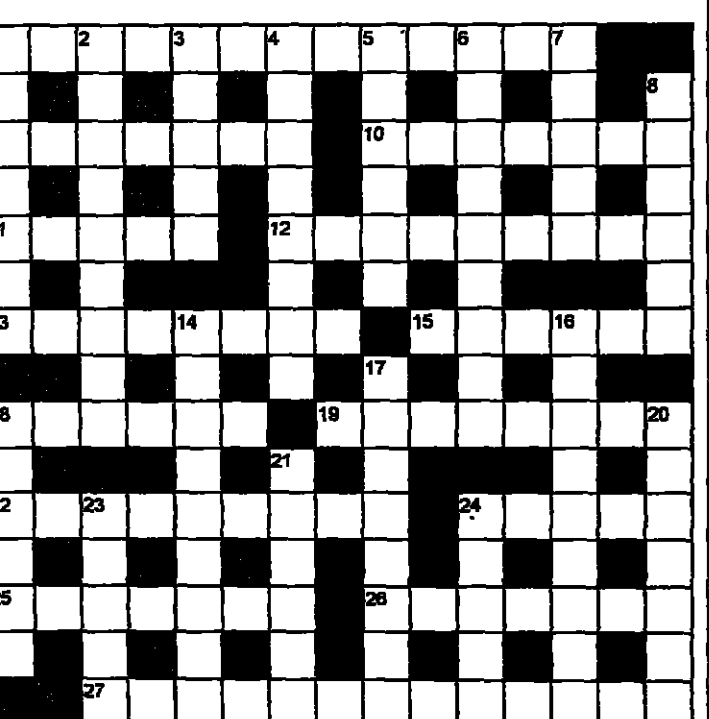
Ms Murdoch: The novelist's husband, John Bayley, tells how he copes with her Alzheimer's Disease. Page 1. Day out: Marco Polo White pulls on his waders. Page 7.

Vision

Seven-day listing of radio and 40 TV channels. Games on: Rising stars in the Commonwealth Games.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,895

A £20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD.



- ACROSS: 1 Carpenter, for one, producing a fier (6-7). 9 Excursion on which one pleases oneself? (5,4). 10 Sort of fly with rook or another bird? (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20889 and Solution to Puzzle No 20894. Includes a grid for puzzle 20889 and a list of words for puzzle 20894.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table showing hours of darkness for various UK locations today and tomorrow.

HIGH TIDES

Table showing high tide times for various UK locations today and tomorrow.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: St Catherine's Point, Isle of Wight, 20C (68F); lowest day max: Llanelli, 11C (52F); highest rainfall: Colwyn Bay, 10.6mm; highest sunshine: Penzance, 8 hr.

ABROAD

Table showing weather conditions for various international locations.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Table showing high and low tide times for various international locations.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Changes to chart above from noon: low E will drift slowly east, with little change; low X will run quickly southeast and fill; low D is expected to drift northeast and fill; high A will decline in situ.

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MOVES OFF Stewart on the future of English cricket PAGE 42

My tears for Manchester United PAGE 36

The men's semi-finals in New York PAGE 35

Dickie Bird on a life in cricket

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PAGE 64

TAX: LAST MINUTE HINTS
PAGE 57

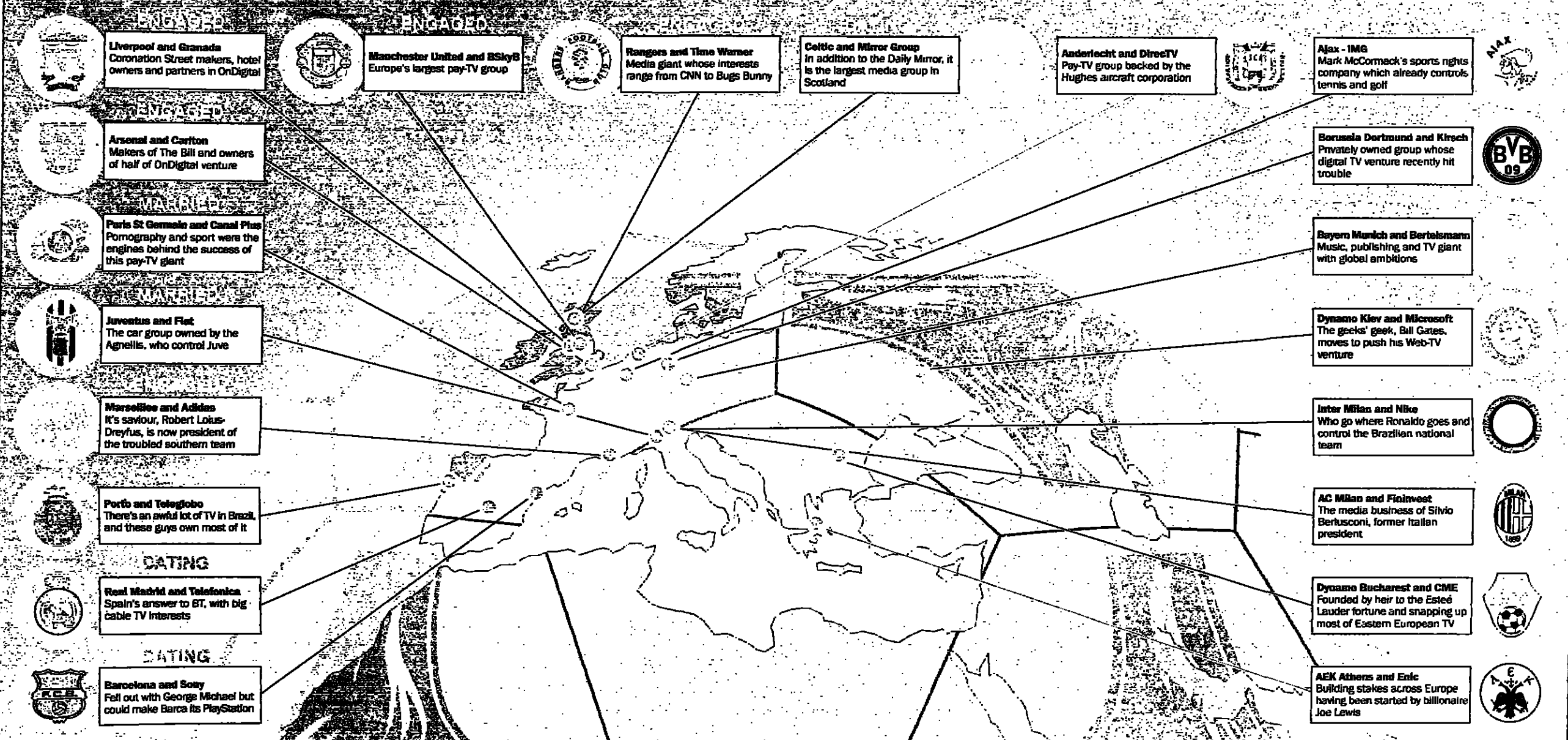
WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES SATURDAY SPORT

SEPTEMBER 12 1998

WHAT EVERY STARSTRUCK CLUB NEEDS - A SUGAR DADDY

MATCHES MADE IN FOOTBALL HEAVEN



IT IS ten to five on Saturday September 12, 2001. And it is time for the classified football results: "BSkyB 2 Teleglobo 0; Granada 4 Time Warner 1; Microsoft 1 Carlton Communications 3; Nike 2 Wimbledon 2..." and now we have the pools checked and the stock market reaction.

What started with the enthusiasm for "muscular Christianity" of a few Victorian clerymen or some chaps with handlebar moustaches getting together for a knock-around in a railway siding is now a business worth billions of dollars. It is a business that makes fortunes for players, managers, agents, media experts, club directors and, now, shareholders. As multinational corporations move to take control of sport, the map of Europe is changing forever. But how will it look after the shake-out? Perhaps something like the above.

According to the rumour mill - which is faster than Darren Anderson and about as reliable - BSkyB and Carlton will not be the only big businesses buying clubs. Granada, Warner, IMG, Uncle Tom Cobleigh and all are supposed to be eyeing up every team from Bayern Munich to Bolton Wanderers. And the reason is that football is seen as a ticket to winning the battle for viewers as television goes digital.

This brave new world will bring hundreds of channels, many charging viewers for every minute that they watch. What the successful pay-TV companies - Time Warner's Home Box Office and BSkyB - have learnt is that only two things guarantee florins in the coffers are big Hollywood movies and sport. And outside the United States, only three sports really deliver viewers - boxing, golf and football.

Boxing has been pretty well sewn up by the television companies while golf is owned by large sports management companies. Football, though,

Global game that is followed by millions

Jason Nissé on who might become the real power players as the most popular sport in the world shapes up for the next century

represents uncharted waters. The competitions have been run by national federations plus Uefa and Fifa.

Outside Great Britain, only a handful of clubs are quoted companies. Many are not even businesses, being owned by co-operatives and sports associations. Fifa rules do not allow one company to own more than one team - though this is under challenge after Uefa tried to stop Rangers, Sparta Prague, Vicenza and AEK Athens all playing in European competitions because they have a common shareholder, the investment group, Enic. Enic went to the European Court and obtained an injunction to allow the teams to play ahead of a court hearing that could have as big an impact on football as the Bosman ruling.

In Britain, the process has been given extra impetus by three events - the ending of the BSkyB contract with the Premier League in 2001; the Restrictive Practices Court case that could stop the 20 teams in the Premier League negotiating as one and force them to strike their own TV deals; and the launch of the rival digital services - BSkyB's Sky Digital and OnDigital, backed by Carlton and Granada, this autumn.

Aston Villa and Leeds United were yesterday admitting to talks, but saying these probably would not lead to a bid. Liverpool's controlling shareholder, David Moores, was adamant in saying that he was not selling to anyone, while in Glasgow, Fergus McCann, the Celtic chairman, said that fans will have the change to match any bid from big business.

There have been angry reactions to BSkyB's purchase of Manchester United and Carlton's moves on Arsenal, but fans only have to look towards Italy, the best league in the world, to see that big business and football can live together. Of the top teams, AC Milan is owned by Silvio Berlusconi, the media mogul and former president of Italy, while Juventus is controlled by Fiat's Agnelli family, Parma by the Parmalat food group and Lazio, the only Italian club to have a stock market listing, by Sergio Cragnoti, a food entrepreneur.

In France, the backing of the pay-TV group, Canal Plus, has been the making of Paris Saint Germain. IMG tried to take over Marseilles a couple of years ago, only to be outbid by Robert Louis-Dreyfus, the former chief executive of

the biggest prizes are in Germany and Spain, though what media mogul could resist the grand traditions of Ajax or even, despite the collapse of former Eastern Bloc economies, the evocative Dynamo Kiev.

Barcelona and Real Madrid are giant organisations, who can deliver whole regions of TV viewers. Germany is more complex, with top clubs such as Borussia Dortmund not even incorporated as trading companies and the largest pay-TV group, Kirsch, facing a financial crisis.

Fighting for a place in the Europe United starting lineup will be Time Warner - which already has an interest in Rangers through Enic - another American outfit.

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DirectTV, Teleglobo, of Brazil and Microsoft, which is rolling out its interactive TV venture, Web TV, across Europe. Do not discount the likes of IMG and Interpublic, the advertising giant that recently bought Alan Pascoe's sports management business. And never forget that Nike virtually controls the Brazil national side, so it can hardly be ignored in the battle for influence over potentially the most lucrative sports market in the world.

But where there are winners, there will be losers. Despite all the cash sloshing around football, the bottom line is that the 20 teams in the Premiership actually lost money in the 1995-6 and 1996-97 seasons. The turnover of the Nationwide League first division is less than a third of that of the Premiership. Only a couple of the Serie A teams in Italy actually make a profit.

And the only organisation likely to bid for Southampton is Crisis at Christmas.

Clubs convene after breakaway threat

PETER LEAVER, chief executive of the FA Premier League, and **RICK PARRY**, chief executive of Liverpool, are to attend discussions with officials from Uefa, football's European governing body, in Geneva on Monday. Top of the agenda will be the revamping of the three-European club competitions.

Senior figures from the Italian and German leagues will also be at the first meeting of the Uefa Task Force, which has been set up to head off the possibility of a breakaway European Super League (ESL). The meeting will be chaired by Senes Erzik, of Turkey.

Liverpool are one of six clubs to have been invited to join the task force - entitled "European Club Football 2000" - along with Juventus, Bayern Munich, Ajax, FC Porto and Lyons. Uefa has set up the group to reform its club competitions and thereby avoid the potential breakaway league, which would comprise Europe's leading sides.

Gerhard Aigner, Uefa's general secretary, met with Karel van Miert, the European Union's competition commissioner, in Brussels yesterday. They discussed the implications of the ESL, which had been proposed by Media Partners, the Italian-based marketing group. Arsenal and Manchester United were involved in the initial ESL talks but their interest cooled.

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ATHLETICS: AMERICAN SPRINTERS ARE QUICK TO MAKE THE MOST OF RAREFIED ATMOSPHERE IN JOHANNESBURG

Jones hits heights in World Cup whirlwind

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT IN JOHANNESBURG

REMARKABLE sprinting, albeit at altitude, marked the opening day of the World Cup here yesterday as Marion Jones recorded the third-fastest 200 metres by a woman and Obadele Thompson moved up to join Linford Christie as the joint-seventh quickest 100 metres runner. The least said about the Great Britain team the better, but like Wimbledon at West Ham United, they could turn things around in the second half. The programme is poorly balanced from Britain's point of view, with the events in which they expect to score heavily being held today and tomorrow. Only Dwain Chambers, in the 100 metres, was thought to have a chance of a top-three place on the first day and so it proved. After six of the 20 events, the British men were seventh of eight teams.

because, had though the score looks, the team has more points than expected. Max Jones, the performance director, had said beforehand that it was important for the lesser athletes to pick up points against the rankings and more were gained than were lost yesterday. Chambers, with the assistance of the thin air of altitude and a false start that was not recalled, will go into the record books as the second-fastest Briton behind Christie. He clocked 10.03sec in the wake of the 9.87sec that gave Thompson maximum points for the Americans and the 9.92 that earned Sean Ogunkoya, from Africa, second place. Ranked fourth in the field, Chambers gave Britain a bonus point by taking third. Both Chambers and Marc Blume, from Germany, beat the starter's gun on official reaction time, but the race was not called back. A reaction time quicker than 0.10sec is considered to be anticipation of the gun rather than a response to it, but the starter can ignore the signal in his headphones if he chooses. In the six men's events yesterday, Chambers was the only Briton in the first three. Andy Hart and Anthony



Proctor, who fulfilled Britain's expectations by finishing in fifth place in the shot, launches into another effort in front of the sparse crowd

Borsurnato joined him as athletes who finished higher than predicted, while only Steve Phillips, who was eighth in the long jump, dropped a point. Mark Proctor, in the shot, and Keith Cullen, in the 5,000 metres, finished a predictable fifth. Here Schumann claimed more notable scalps, among them Norberto Tellez, who has replaced Alberto Juantorena as the Cuban record-holder and who was runner-

up to Kipketer in the world championships last year. Jones, from the United States, moved closer to Florence Griffith-Joyner's world 200 metres record of 21.34sec, set ten years ago this month. She recorded 21.62sec, despite being drawn on the outside lane and running into a wind. These disadvantages minimised the altitude benefit for Jones. Barely leading entering the straight, Jones then pulled

away. She said later: "I am doing the 100 tomorrow and hopefully I will run faster than I have ever run before. On Sunday, I want to long jump further than ever." The meeting was poorly attended, which suggested that the locals were not impressed by the statement of Primo Nebiolo, the International Amateur Athletic Federation president, who had described the World Cup on Thursday as "the most impor-

tant athletics event in the world this year". Or by Danie Malan, a leading South African organiser, who had said: "We are going to have a bumper crowd." Crowd or not, the women's 400 metres hurdlers put on a spectacular show to open the track programme. It resulted in Neza Bidouane, from Morocco, setting an African record of 52.96sec, the perfect start for a continent hosting the event for the first time.

Nobody, probably not even the Australians, would doubt that the British crewed four will win, producing Steve Redgrave's ninth world championship gold medal and Matthew Pinsent's sixth. However, the leeway that the men's four possess is not matched by the women's pair of Dot Blackie and Cath Bishop and the women's double scull of Miriam Bateman and Gillian Lindsay in their events. The pair, both World Cup-winners, have Canada, the world champions, and four other equally talented crews lining up against them. "Any of the six could win a medal," Blackie said. "We plan to be in the pack and work to our strength in the second half." It is her first world final.

The women's lightweight pair, who were easy winners in Lucerne, suffered a blow when Caroline Hobson's back seized last Tuesday. Jo Nisich will substitute for Hobson today and will also race in the lightweight quad tomorrow. Britain's three scullers have a tough day today. Peter Haining, the world lightweight champion from 1993 to 1995, is enjoying his comeback appearance in a world championship final. Karsten Nielsen, of Denmark, who holds the world title, and Stefano Basaffini, of Italy, look to be the top men, leaving Haining in a pack for bronze. Guin Batten's winning semi-final performance has put her in pole position for No 3, something that she did not achieve in the Olympic Games in 1996 and the world championships in 1997.

MINI: Lightweight coxless pairs: Semi-final 1 heat: 1. USA 6:58.2, 2. Canada 7:00.8, 3. Australia 7:02.2, 4. Germany 7:04.8, 5. France 7:07.4, 6. Great Britain 7:10.0, 7. New Zealand 7:12.6, 8. Italy 7:15.2, 9. Denmark 7:17.8, 10. Netherlands 7:20.4, 11. Spain 7:23.0, 12. Sweden 7:25.6, 13. Czech Republic 7:28.2, 14. Great Britain (T. Mearns, M. Budgey) 7:30.8, 15. South Korea 7:33.4, 16. Poland 7:36.0, 17. Germany 7:38.6, 18. USA 7:41.2, 19. Canada 7:43.8, 20. Australia 7:46.4, 21. France 7:49.0, 22. Netherlands 7:51.6, 23. Denmark 7:54.2, 24. Sweden 7:56.8, 25. Czech Republic 8:00.0, 26. Great Britain (T. Mearns, M. Budgey) 8:02.6, 27. South Korea 8:05.2, 28. Poland 8:07.8, 29. Germany 8:10.4, 30. USA 8:13.0, 31. Canada 8:15.6, 32. Australia 8:18.2, 33. France 8:20.8, 34. Netherlands 8:23.4, 35. Denmark 8:26.0, 36. Sweden 8:28.6, 37. Czech Republic 8:32.0, 38. Great Britain (T. Mearns, M. Budgey) 8:34.6, 39. South Korea 8:37.2, 40. Poland 8:39.8, 41. Germany 8:42.4, 42. 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FOOTBALL SATURDAY

That'll teach you for selling your soul in the first place

Just what is the Manchester United supporters' problem? What kind of club did they think they were pouring their money into? To listen to some of them this week, you'd have thought United were a little local outfit who, despite massive money and success, had managed to remain on a first-name basis with every season ticket-holder and, in essence, were no different from Leyton Orient or Melchester Rovers - all sandwiches, tea ladies and rattles. What dopes.



DANNY BAKER

They are now clearly United fans, spies even, secret soccer police with a vested interest. Imagine BSkyB having to cover Arsenal v Newcastle, penultimate game of the season. Arsenal need to win it to go one point above Man U. If they lose, the title goes to Old Trafford. How welcome will their cables, cameras, technicians and satellite trucks be at Highbury? Or any away ground where United are pitching up?

ALEX FERGUSON MUST GO NOW! THE ENTIRE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHOULD RESIGN IMMEDIATELY! UNITED ARE THE SYMBOL OF EVERYTHING THAT IS WRONG IN FOOTBALL UP THE CITY! Sorry about that outburst. It's not actually heartfelt at all. I've just been asked to find out where the edge of the cliff is these days.

or Gillingham or Notts County or whoever your rightful local team are in favour of some "big" club.

Thought you made a difference, did you sucker? Listened to all those hard-luck stories about Doncaster and Brighton and Newport and Aldershot over the past decade and, while sympathising, congratulated yourself on making the modern business choice? For soccer to evolve, it might just be necessary for a few teams to go under, that's the line isn't it? I heard you all right.

Well, how's this for evolution, my old Red Devils? Not needed now, eh? At last, a club that doesn't need supporters. Just consumers - and those it has the globe over. Your season ticket-holders mean not an iota more than an old lady with enough piastras to buy a replica shirt in Sudan.

The only real problem I can foresee is for BSkyB itself. How on earth can it show its face at other grounds now? The cameras are no longer neutral. They are the Man United network and I really don't think the money men have considered what a bitter dividing point that will become.



Finney, left, performing as King Lear with Tom Courteay in The Dresser and ensuring that the leading lights shine brightest

Look what's lurking in the shadows

In all the ballyhoo, some say tubbub, not to mention publicity over BSkyB this week, we are in great danger of overlooking the true victim in all of this, EuroSport. Like Quorn is "the other white meat", poor old EuroSport is most definitely "the other satellite sport channel". Yet, bravely, it struggles on. There is a moment in Peter Yates's production of The Dresser, where Albert Finney, as "Sir" - a fabulous, overbearing actor-manager of the old school - addresses his supporting company and booms: "The large light up in the balcony is exclusively for my own use. The rest of you must find what light you can."

It is in these shadows that EuroSport quietly carries on its work. On the day that the Man Utd/BSkyB agreement was signed, I tuned in to this overlooked outlet to see what might be happening in a sporting world still unbattered by the blizzard of modern mass media manoeuvring. I am rewarded with the Ms Physical Fitness USA finals from Redondo Beach, California. At first, I feel this must be some recognised body-building fest and decide to watch for a few minutes so as to be suitably appalled at the bulging, manly, female physiques on view and thereby have something to thunder against at the water cooler on Thursday. However, the Ms Physical Fitness USA finals are rather less legitimate. They turn out to be a sort of pumped up beauty pageant that seeks to honour those who have been most diligent on butt crunch-

ers, thigh masters and other store-bought aerobics paraphernalia throughout the year. Quite simply, they were the Game Show Hostess Olympics and were so fantastic that I forgot to turn back to Seinfeld. Each of the contestants was required to step up to the mike in evening wear and deliver "a philosophy of fitness". I assure you, they were the kind of inane homilies that made the declarations at Ms Universe 1998 sound like the opening speech from Patton. As a crane camera restlessly swooped the enormous stage like a jackdaw making a pass at Tony Blackburn's hairpiece, poised but terrified women spoke about "the success of self", "inner temples", "personal aesthetic attainment" and "harnessing the magic that is me and you". I awed the audience cutaway of Glenn and Eileen holding hands and mouthing: "Yes! Oh yes!" Then came the physical portion of the proceedings and the tenuous sporting claim the show was boasting disappeared altogether. Each woman performed a dance. Now, when I say dance, I don't mean the kind of artistic gymnas-

tic ribbons and hoops display that nine-year-olds perform at the indoor athletics meetings - though Lord knows that's peculiar enough - I mean a real shape-throwing, non-stop, shoe-swinging freak-out. Like Sue Pollard would ad-lib if Hi de Hi's script called for her to get drunk and show herself up. The only set move in any of these bastard descendants of the Charleston was to see which of the entrants might most constantly find the camera with the straining gusset of their drawers. Because, make no mistake, these were not leotards, bigs or cycle shorts on display. These were boob tubes, mini-skirts and drawers, sir. After watching the first dozen or so hopefuls, I got the distinct feeling that I ought to be feeding pound coins into a slot (those who understand that reference might explain it to their partners). During the World Cup, I praised Sky Sports for countering the omnipresent pictures from France with events such as the world jiving championships from Cardiff. Now that Sky owns Manchester United, I suppose it will install live webcams in all the players' homes and offices and such images will edge out those fringe sporting competitions that so completely a network's spectrum. It is therefore comforting to know that they will always have a home just a little along the dial and that one station at least refuses to be devoured by the monster of modern football.

Hats off to Bradford, the pride of a nation

United are off to BSkyB, Arsenal are making eyes at Carlton and Ken Bates must be toying with the idea of putting a red light in the window and raising his hemline. Yet it's not all whizzbangs, sensations and bonfire of the vanities out there. Here are three other copper-bottomed news items pulling at our collective mental coat during this rumbustious week.

- 1. Gareth Collinson, of Grantham Town, has joined Birmingham City on trial with a view to a permanent move.
2. Bradford City will play Vardar Skopje in Macedonia on October 13 as part of that country's British Week festivities.
3. Paul Stewart, the former England, Tottenham Hotspur and Liverpool striker, is in the Worthington Town line-up today.
While I admit that I completely made up the story about players falling off a roof in Zagreb last week, the item about Bradford being the best we can spare for Macedonia's British Week is absolutely true. I'll bet it's a full house too. My friend Danny Kelly once accepted, on behalf of his pub side, an offer to play what he presumed were their counterparts in Majorca. When an air-conditioned coach turned up at their two-star hotel in Palma, Danny began to suspect his hosts may have over-estimated his squad's status. He and his collection of rail workers, students, postmen and cab drivers were then delivered to a floodlit stadium where 5,000 people had filled every seat. In the modern and well-equipped dressing-room, many from the Royal George XI began to wish they had synchronised their shorts and socks before leaving East London and, for the first time, became acutely aware of the washed-out, threadbare nature of their shirts. It was when Danny went forward for the toss-up and was handed a commemorative pennant by the opposing captain - Kelly having nothing to offer in return but the firmest of handshakes - that he finally accepted that this was not going to be the beach-front kick-about he had prepared for. His side were beaten 19-2 by the uniformly dressed, super-fit and clearly professional opposition, Royal George being subjected to catcalls throughout and booted to the echo at the final whistle. Now, then. Whenever Danny K tells this story, it is always a matter of supreme frustration that he is forced to reveal that he has no idea who, exactly, the host side were and who the hell they thought the Royal George were. He thinks the Spaniards actually were Palma FC and his team are convinced they were mistaken for West Ham United. So, hats off to Bradford and their part in the export drive, but at the same time, it is entirely likely that several thousand Macedonians are under the impression that it is Glenn Hoddle's squad who are in intensive training, gearing up for the feast of football soon to be staged in their Motherland.

Punting with the best of them

Millwall FC is in productive talks with Punt Media Industries, the conglomerate owned by Highland mogul Florian Punt, publisher of the Isle of Arran Shoemakers Monthly. Details of any prospective deal are shrouded in secrecy, but eyebrows were raised recently when Mr Punt was seen laughing and joking with Millwall youth team coach David Cross in The Five Belts, New Cross, before the South East Counties game against Southend United. Also, a photographer from The Hoy & District

Freshwater has been given a good spot "down by the post" at all recent Lions home games. This despite the catchment area of the newspaper being restricted to the suburbs of Wick, Caithness. A spokesperson for Punt Media did not deny the deal and added: "It is no secret that Mr Punt has been interested in having closer ties with a football club for some time and, naturally, the profile of Millwall FC complements many of our own interests. While strapped at the moment, Punt Media can confidently tell Millwall to get

their arm nice and swabbed in preparation for a future cash injection." Danny Baker, president of the Phony Baloney Unification Soccer Support Alliance for Real Old Fashioned Fans, was rather less enthusiastic. "It's a disgrace," he wrote today in his Times column. "On Tuesday, our ground was literally uprooted with heavy machines and placed on the back of an enormous lorry, which then drove off towards Scotland. It's like they're taking the club away from us." Tommy Docherty is 106,

Muir the merrier for stormy 30-year affair

Mark Hodgkinson meets a former director who spent half a lifetime with the blue half of Manchester



A family portrait. Of sorts. The camera homes in. Faces are picked out from the grainy monochrome. Middle row, centre: middle-aged man, suit, glasses, benign expression. Front row, far right: stocky, fair-haired sportsman, steeley, "up-for-it" look. At this point, the film director splatters blood over the picture and we recognise the code: family at war, along this way will pass hostility and cruelty. The photograph, a team shot of Manchester City taken in 1969, hangs in the home of Chris Muir. Muir, now aged 69, is in the photograph. He is the man in glasses and the fair-haired man is Francis Lee. "Do you know what is unusual about this photograph?" he asks. He embarks upon a story about the silverware placed conspicuously in the foreground. He is, of course, missing the point. What is really unusual is that it depicts a football club with the capacity to make the rise and fall of the Roman Empire seem like a toga party that turned nasty. Muir was a director of Manchester City for nearly 30 years. He has a silver salver to commemorate the fact. A war medal might have been more

and Muir began buying them. Most were kept as quasi souvenirs by fans, tucked away in cupboards and shoeboxes. "I have a nice smile and a pleasant Scottish accent. They thought if I was mad enough to buy them, I must have the club's interest at heart." He became an agent provocateur, goading supporters to campaign against the board. In his own terms, he was a "swordsmen of the revolution"



Sir Matt Busby was a rival, but remained a close friend

paraded the League Cup, explaining to office staff why a member of the coaching team required numerous guest tickets for young, attractive females. He will put a name to a story, but he would rather it did not appear in print. He is discreet, a wheeler-dealer of the old school. He says there were, in and around the club, "phenomenal womanisers, bloody lunatics, all manner of life". In the early Seventies, another power struggle saw Muir briefly lose his position. He formed an alliance with Peter Swales, then the chairman of non-league Altrincham. The public image of Swales was later cruelly lampooned - small man, crimson complexion, hair intricately weaved to conceal an obvious baldness. Muir saw him as "a man who could lead City to greatness". Muir admired the tact, the sleight of hand, the charm and the cunning of Swales. He was a master of well-placed gossip, a schemer, always out for the best deal. Whether this was for City or himself, well - "that was a matter of opinion. He had the blue blood of City in his veins," Muir avers. Swales became chairman in 1973 and he reappointed Allison during the close season of 1979. He wanted the magic of old, but the "Hold on, pal" pragmatism of Joe Mercer was missing and Allison's ego,



Muir has a huge fund of stories about life at Maine Road

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FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Rare artist leaves brother's shadow far behind

Rangers gave Brian Laudrup his freedom and the World Cup confirmed his fame.

Photograph: Marc Aspland

I remember it best in the smell of the smoke that wafted through the section of the Cheadle End at Edgeley Park...

England will witness a man who has had to dedicate his whole life to a process of wriggling free.

Against Arsenal on Wednesday night, he was far from his best, feeling his way gingerly into a new experience.

Now that the terraces are gone and Stockport County no longer bottom of the fourth division...

rare players who can bring a little fantasy back into football.

"How do you stop him?" Andy Goram, his Rangers teammate, was asked last season after Laudrup, playing in the free role that Walter Smith granted him...

OLIVER HOLT



challenge at St James' Park is as good a metaphor for freedom as you can get.

"First, you need a piece of rope," Goram said. "That always comes in handy for tying him down."

Francis bearing burden of the asset-strippers

EVERYTHING should be hunky dory at St Andrew's, Birmingham City have lost only one of their nine matches...

the three-sided ground — the Railway End is in a dishevelled state of redevelopment — have only once passed 19,000 in five matches this season.

Asian teams banned for trying to lose

THAILAND and Indonesia have been suspended indefinitely from international competition by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC)...

want to win — an outcome that would have meant them playing Vietnam, the hosts and cup favourites, in the semi-finals.

Wenger adds Ljungberg to his arsenal

ENGLAND'S 2-1 defeat against Sweden in their European championship qualifying match in Stockholm last Saturday caused much angst back home...

Hodde's future set to become more clouded

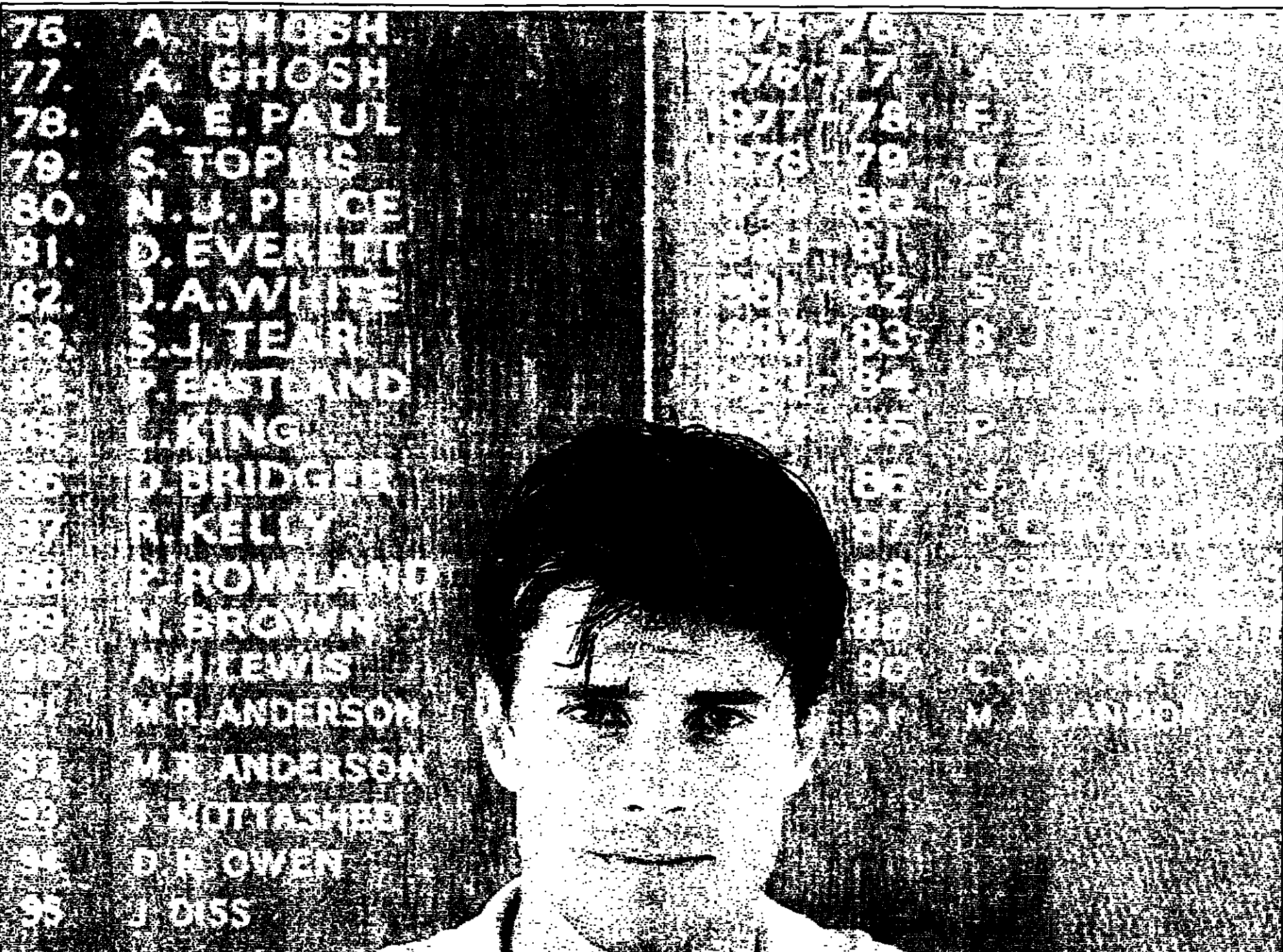
THE prospect of Glenn Hoddle leading England beyond 2000 — assuming he makes it that far — appears to be diminishing by the day.

committee member believes has "invited ridicule". It has been an appalling week for Hoddle, or David Icke as some mischievous players are known to call him.

huge disquiet among the squad. Savage was thrown out of the 22 for a television stunt which involved hurling a Paolo Maldini shirt to the ground...



way in which Phil was left out of the World Cup party. "We can handle the fact that the press seem to be after him," said a source.



Laudrup, the epitome of the modern, international Premiership player, offers a stark contrast to the traditions of the Imperial College training ground, which is used by Chelsea

'It was very difficult because you couldn't play as a normal child'

and gently and sometimes it sounds as if there is a Scottish lilt to his perfect English, a product of his five years with Rangers.

ally see myself going all the way. I can't stand it. I just want to be someone normal. I want to be called Brian Jensen or Brian Neilsen. I am going to quit."

not prepared for what actually happened in Denmark when I said I would retire, because they went absolutely berserk.

"I have also come almost as far as my brother now and that is fine with me. I never had the ambition to become the best of us.

At Rangers, it sometimes seemed to be just about Gazza and me. The supporters forgot about the nine other players and said that Gazza and I had to perform and if we didn't then we were to blame if we did not win.

FOOTBALL SATURDAY



Matt Dickinson Harry Redknapp, the West Ham United manager, was almost speechless with rage after his side's shocking capitulation to Wimbledon in midweek.

WEST HAM UNITED vs LIVERPOOL Today, 3.00pm (sold out)

Redknapp thought, presumably, that silence was best because no plausible explanation could be offered for how a 3-0 lead could be transformed into a 3-4 defeat. It was a surrender that defied belief and words.

Fowler kicked six goals in a friendly as he continues his recovery from knee surgery. It is easy to forget just how prolific the England striker has been, with 92 league goals in 160 appearances for his club — an average of more than 20 per season.



Keith Pike After a month dominated by diaries of dubious quality, assorted tomes and now boardroom manoeuvrings, it has gone almost unnoticed that much of the football played in the FA Carling Premiership so far has been inspired and unimaginative.

LEICESTER CITY vs ARSENAL Today, 3.00pm (sold out)

father during the week and Bergkamp must be hoping that it is now his turn to deliver. By turning into the transfer market yesterday, Wenger indicated that he, too, is far from happy with Arsenal's start.

by Middlesbrough in midweek would have shocked those who saw the inspired and inventive manner in which they overwhelmed Everton in their previous home game, could not have had a more timely boost than the decision by Emil Heskey, their precocious striker, to sign an extended contract committing himself for another year.

LEICESTER CITY (probable 3-5-2): K Keller — F Snelor, M Elliot, P Karmali — R Savage, T Zogorovic, N Lamont, M Izzat, S Guppy — E Hoolley, A Coates.

TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, extended highlights. PREDICTION: Arsenal back on the winning track.



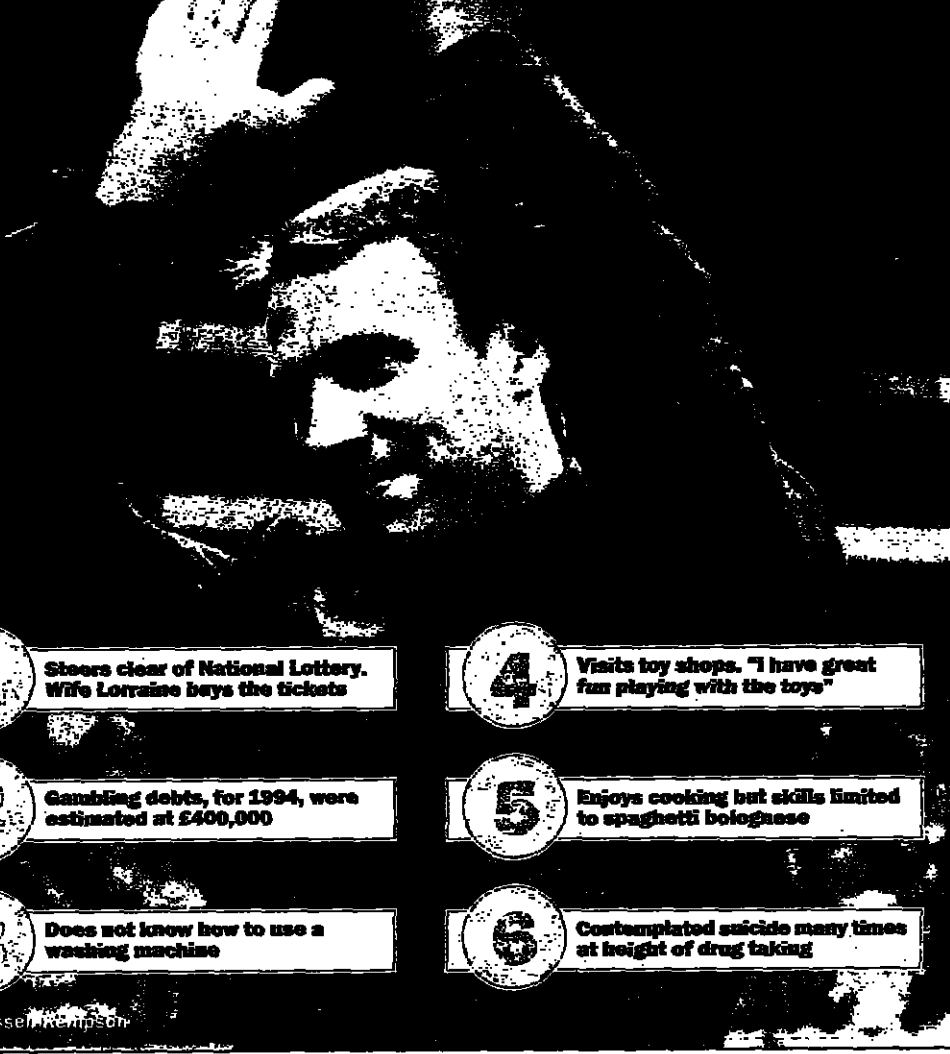
Matt Dickinson David Pleat could barely tie the laces of his old boots quickly enough, such was his delight at being let loose once more on the Tottenham Hotspur training ground.

TOTTENHAM vs MIDDLESBROUGH Tomorrow, 4.00pm

Pleat has been told by the board that he will not succeed Christian Gross as manager of Spurs, but that will not stop him making the strongest possible bid for the post — and he is already off to a flying start.

training ground in Chigwell this summer and, if results go well, he may take up squatter's rights in the manager's office next door.

SIX THINGS ABOUT PAUL MERSON



- 1. Shares clear of National Lottery. Wife Lorraine buys the tickets. 2. Gambling debts, for 1994, were estimated at £400,000. 3. Does not know how to use a washing machine. 4. Visits toy shops. "I have great fun playing with the toys". 5. Enjoys cooking but skills limited to spaghetti bolognese. 6. Contemplated suicide many times at height of drug taking.



Russell Kempson Paul Merson's arrival at Villa Park on Tuesday, even in this mad, mad, mad world of football, must rank as one of the most bizarre signings for many years.

ASTON VILLA vs WIMBLEDON Today, 3.00pm

ago, said. "Playing Wimbledon is never easy and what they have achieved over the years is an inspiration for every player, coach and supporter."

Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, takes full credit for his continual against-the-odds battle and it would perhaps be interesting to see how he got on with millions of pounds at his disposal at another club.



Peter Robinson When Mark Kinsella struck his thunderbolt at Old Trafford on Wednesday, the cheer could be heard across the country.

CHARLTON vs DERBY Today, 3.00pm

ceded just one goal so far this season, even if they have scored but two. They should also be unchanged, having recorded their first win, against Sheffield Wednesday, in midweek.

How, Walter Smith, of Everton, must wish he could say the same. He is still grappling with life in a dingy bedsit. He may have found the perfect match for Duncan Ferguson up front, but like a new carpet that cannot be delivered for an age, Ibrahim Bakayoko, the £4.5 million Ivory Coast striker, will have to wait while his work permit is secured.

EVERTON vs LEEDS Today, 3.00pm

Stephen Wood Managing Everton or Leeds United must be akin to moving into a new home that still needs extensive renovation.



Kevin McCarr In contravention of the cliché, there are managers who have to take it two games at a time.

MANCHESTER UNITED vs COVENTRY Today, 3.00pm (sold out)

absorption with United seems only to deepen and the search for the Champions' League is an aspect of his fascination.

Manchester United meet Coventry City this afternoon, but he cannot help but notice the shadow that has fallen over the match. It is cast by Barcelona, who visit Old Trafford for a European Cup Champions' League tie on Wednesday.



Nick Szczepanik If Chelsea are to challenge for the FA Carling Premiership title, they had better look sharp about winning a match, with only two points from three games.

CHELSEA vs NOTTINGHAM FOREST Today, 3.00pm

course of the match, continuing injuries to Sot Germain and Lee Hodges mean that Bassett may have little option but to persevere with them.

Richard Hobson Leaving Barnsley for Sheffield Wednesday may not be quite the career move that Danny Wilson had envisaged.

EVERTON vs LEEDS Today, 3.00pm

Richard Hobson Leaving Barnsley for Sheffield Wednesday may not be quite the career move that Danny Wilson had envisaged.



George Canlin When the season is merely four weeks old, when words like "crisis" have already been used in conjunction with your club, when your manager of a month ago has long since jumped ship and when points have been in desperately short supply, what better time to host the FA Carling Premiership's bottom club.

NEWCASTLE vs SOUTHAMPTON Today, 3.00pm (sold out)

Southampton regular this season, but four consecutive defeats, two goals scored and 12 conceded surely dictates the player's reinstatement at a venue that always prompts him to raise his game.

Southampton regular this season, but four consecutive defeats, two goals scored and 12 conceded surely dictates the player's reinstatement at a venue that always prompts him to raise his game.



Richard Hobson Leaving Barnsley for Sheffield Wednesday may not be quite the career move that Danny Wilson had envisaged.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY vs BLACKBURN Today, 3.00pm

the loss of Hendry to Rangers. Daily, his replacement, has yet to start in the heart of the defence and featured on the right side of midfield in the 2-1 defeat against Tottenham Hotspur on Wednesday.

Sheffield Wednesday (probable 4-4-2): R Hendry — J Coblen, E Thomas, D Whalley, A Hinchcliffe — G Whittingham, P Anneton, W Jork, P Reid — A Booth, P de Camo.

THE TIMES SATURDAY Gre to ru WEEKEND PREMIERSHIP FIRST DIVISION SECOND DIVISION THIRD DIVISION

سكزا من الأهل

الجمعة 12 ايلول 1998

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Greed threatens to ruin our game

The likelihood of a European super league seems to be increasing by the week and I can only guess that the takeover of Manchester United by BskyB will increase the probability of it happening sooner rather than later.

The impression that this is just another spoilt footballer complaining about his lot, I should add that I know how lucky I am to be playing the game I love and earning a good living doing it.

them or the supporters? How do they think the fans will be able to afford the time and money to watch their team across Europe every fortnight?



FRANK LEBOEUF

forward by people with their brains in their wallets.

Horses for courses I am not the only Frank Leboeuf who has been put through his paces recently. Believe it or not, I now have an equine namesake, trained by Alex Stewart, who ran in the 5.40 at Leicester this week.

resting room before kick-off. I settle for reminding the team that we are in it together and that no one should think that they can win the game on their own.

A worthy cause Why have your own newspaper column if you cannot plug the things that matter to you, especially when it involves a very worthwhile cause. Children are hugely important to me and there is one disease, Giant Naevus, that I am supporting because it is not recognised at the moment by the health department or social security.

Captain's honour Dennis Wise's suspension at Chelsea has given me the chance to become temporary captain and I must say what a great honour it has been. Gianluca Vialli told me only shortly before the match against Newcastle United that I would be wearing the armband and I have taken great pride in it.

Next week: Gary Neville

WEEKEND MATCHES

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated - generic fixtures. Pools coupon numbers in brackets

PREMIERSHIP

- (1) Aston Villa v Wimbledon (2) Charlton v Derby (3) Chelsea v Nottingham Forest (4) Everton v Leeds (5) Leicester v Arsenal (6) Manchester Utd v Coventry (7) Newcastle v Southampton (8) Sheffield Wednesday v Blackburn (9) West Ham v Liverpool

FIRST DIVISION

- (10) Bolton v Birmingham (11) Bradford v Sheffield Utd (12) Crystal Palace v West York (13) Derby v Barnsley (14) Gillingham v Luton (15) Ipswich v Walsall (16) Portsmouth v Sunderland (17) Stockport v Crewe (18) Walsley v Queens Park Rangers (19) Wolverhampton v Sunderland

SECOND DIVISION

- (20) Burnley v Wycombe (21) Charlton v Walsall (22) Chesterfield v Gillingham (23) Lincoln v Blackpool (24) Luton v Bristol Rovers (25) Mansfield v Mansfield City (26) Northampton v Oxford (27) Notts County v Fulham (28) Preston v Reading (29) Stoke v Millwall (30) York v Wrexham

THIRD DIVISION

- (31) Barnet v Hull (32) Brentford v Rotherham (33) Brighton v Southend (34) Cambridge Utd v Leyton Orient (35) Chester v Torquay (36) Hartlepool v Exeter (37) Mansfield v Derby (38) Plymouth v Darlington (39) Rochdale v Southend (40) Stevenage v Peterborough (41) Swanssea v Scarborough

CONFERENCE

- (1) Barnet v Haverhill (2) Forest Green v Farnham (3) Hayes v Dorchester (4) Hemel Hempstead (5) Kidderminster v Farnborough (6) King's Lynn v Cheltenham (7) Leamington (8) Morecambe v Stevenage (9) Rushden & Diamonds v Torquay (10) Southport v Welling (11) Yeovil v Northwich

SCOTTISH PREMIER

- (42) Aberdeen v Motherwell (43) Celtic v Rangers (44) Dundee Utd v Rangers (45) Hearts v Dundee (46) St Johnstone v Dumbarton

FIRST DIVISION

- (47) Arbroath v Greenock Morton (48) Clydebank v Arbroath (49) East Fife v Dundee (50) St Mirren v Hibernian (51) Stirling Albion (52) Stranraer v Hamilton

SECOND DIVISION

- (53) Alton v Clyde (54) Forth v East Fife (55) Inverness CT v Queen Of South (56) Langloan v Dundee (57) Perth v Stirling

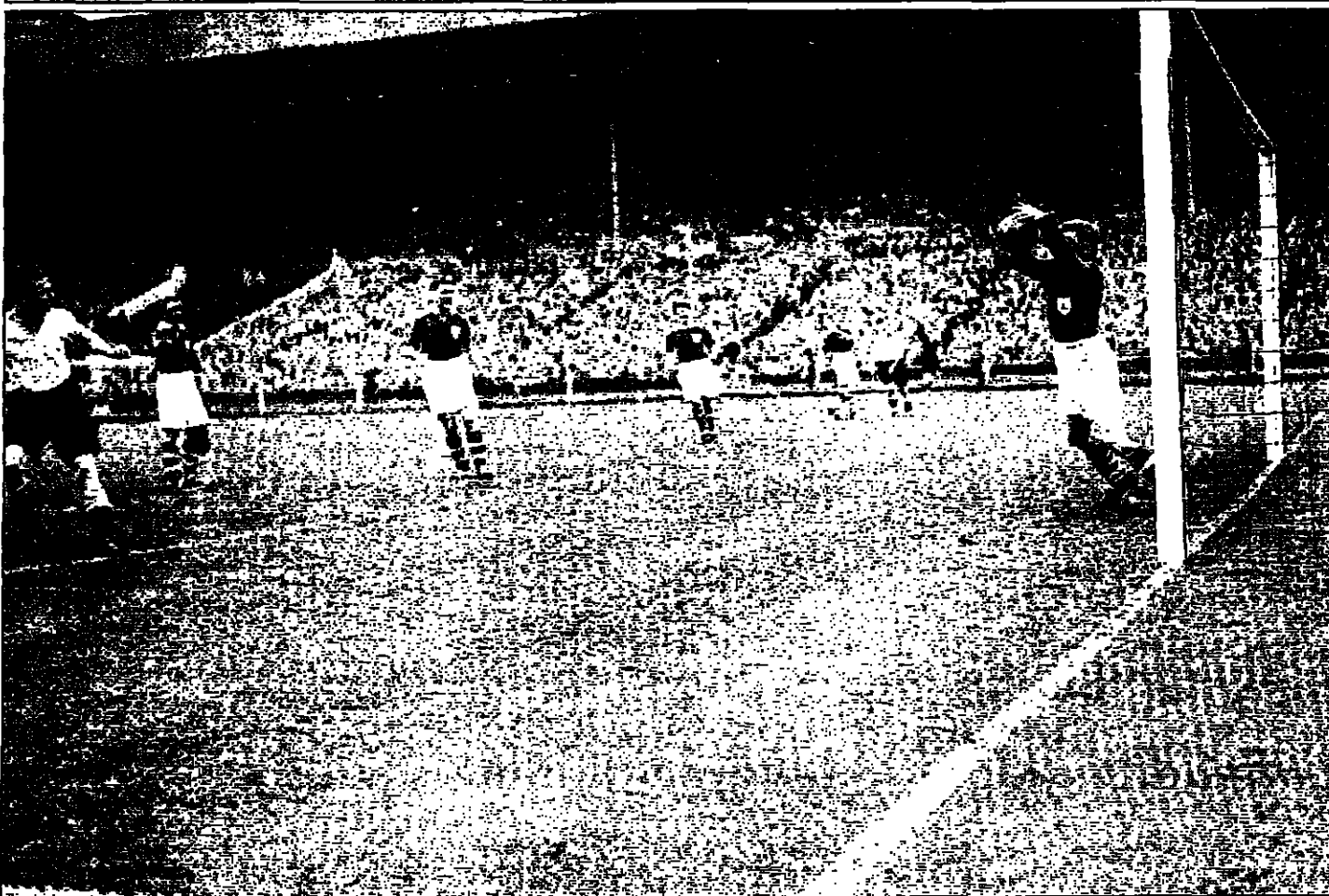
THIRD DIVISION

- (58) Brechin v Dumbarton (59) Cowdenbeath v Brechin (60) East Stirling v Arbroath (61) Queen's Park v Ross County (62) Stirling Albion v Montrose

TOMORROW

- Tottenham v Middlesbrough (4.0) Bristol City v West Bromwich (1.0) Norwich v Bury (1.0)

BACK IN THE FRAME: SAM'S DEFLATING EXPERIENCE



THE MEETING of Charlton Athletic and Derby County at the Valley today may not live up to the superlative standards of their meeting in the FA Cup Final of 1946, but at least the ball may survive the afternoon.

The first postwar Wembley final was won 4-1 by Derby after extra time and Bert Turner, of Charlton, became the first man to score at both ends in a Cup Final.

There was one even stranger incident, though, when the ball burst near the end of normal time. Sam Bartram, the legendary Charlton goalkeeper (pictured left), caught the ball and, feeling the air rushing out of it, hurled it into touch before the referee could award a bounce-up in his six-yard area.

Five days later, the teams met again in a league match — and the ball burst again. Derby were watched by a crowd of 76,388 in the sixth round and 80,407 in the semi-final replay while Charlton's semi-final drew 70,819.

Richard Whitehead

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Table with columns for Rank, Played, Points, Goal Diff, Home (W, D, L, F, A), Away (W, D, L, F, A), Last 10 Matches (W-D-L), and Status. Lists teams from 1. Liverpool to 20. Southampton.

SATURDAY STATISTICS

Advertisement for 'SPREAD THE EAGLE' featuring statistics on goals scored and conceded, and a list of individuals. Includes a small image of a pair of glasses.

Table with columns for Division (First, Second, Third) and team names with their respective P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Includes a cartoon of two men talking.

Table with columns for Division (Premier League, Second, Third) and team names with their respective P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts.

MOTOR RACING: CHAMPIONSHIP LEADER FALTERS IN FIRST PRACTICE SESSION FOR ITALIAN GRAND PRIX

Hakkinen feeling heat from Ferrari

AS THE rain tumbled from the dark sky, Mika Hakkinen put an arm around his wife, huddled under a silver umbrella and scuttled through the puddles to the sanctuary of the McLaren motorhome. The man who would be world champion has been almost invisible in the run-up to the Italian Grand Prix, and he wants it to stay that way.

While David Coulthard, his team-mate, has been embroiled in the high-profile aftermath of his dispute with Michael Schumacher, Hakkinen has barely been seen or heard, content to restrict his

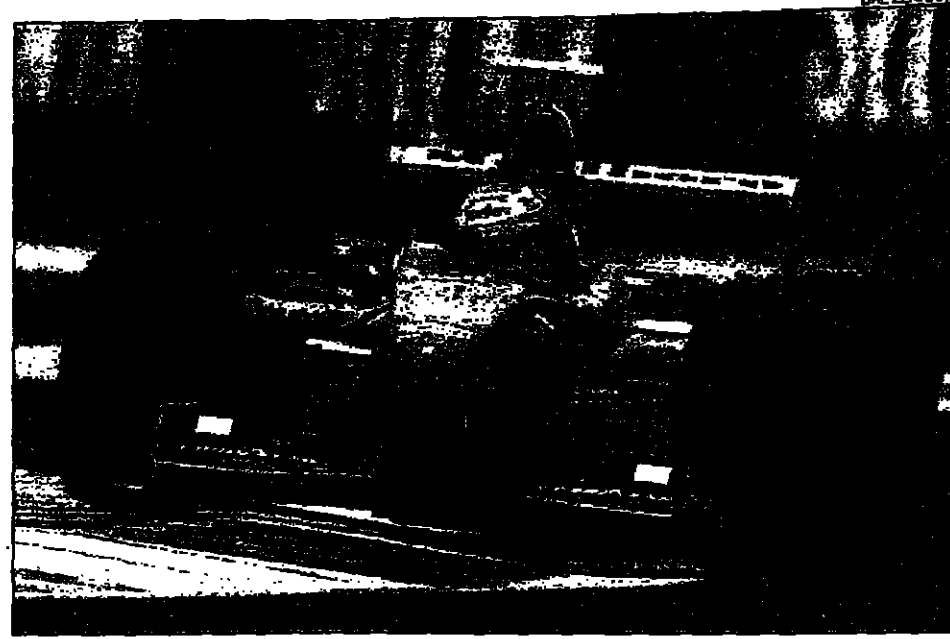
company to his wife, Erja, and the McLaren-Mercedes engineers who have helped to bring him to the brink of the title he craves.

Yesterday the Finn was less talkative than at any time in this tumultuous season. With a lead of just seven points over Schumacher with three races left, Hakkinen knows that the Formula One world championship is in danger of slipping from his grasp. The sight of rain during practice yesterday probably made his heart sink

under the weight of memories of Belgium two weeks ago, where a convincing pole position turned into a first-corner exit.

That performance raised the question once again of whether the driver known as "The Iceman" might be melting under pressure from Schumacher. As the door to the motorhome shut firmly behind the Hakkienens, a McLaren minder kept interlopers at bay with the message that "Mika just wants to chill out". Ron Dennis, the McLaren team director, was at pains to keep a protective arm around the driver he has groomed to be the sixth world champion in McLaren colours.

Knowing that the title could hang on Hakkinen's performance in Ferrari's back yard has clearly been playing on the mind of Dennis. "Right now, more people want to see the world championship go down to the last grand prix than for Mika to take it here or at the next race," he said. "What he must not get into is



Irvine cuts corners in his Ferrari during practice at Monza for the race tomorrow

the mental mathematics of what is or isn't possible at each race.

"He has just got to be cool: there is no other way to be. He has to curb his emotions because it will affect his performance if he doesn't. It is going to be a cool head that wins the world championship, and that doesn't just apply to the drivers but goes right through the whole team."

One driver who knows just how intense the pressure from Schumacher can be is Damon

Hill. "It should be Mika's championship but he has to go for it," he said. "That is the only way for him to beat Michael."

Hakkinen's performance during first practice yesterday was less than promising. He finished fifth, behind the Williams of Jacques Villeneuve and well adrift of the top triumvirate of Eddie Irvine, Schumacher and Coulthard. However, Irvine gave warning that his leading time will probably not be relevant when the driv-

ing starts in earnest this afternoon for qualifying. Nor was his Ferrari team trying especially hard because they were at Monza.

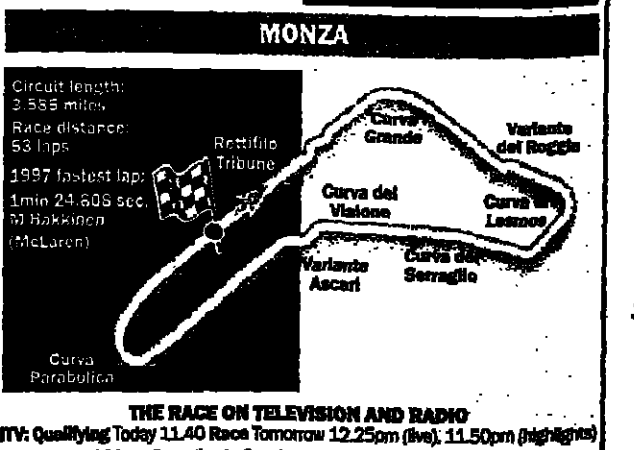
Irvine expects Hakkinen still to be the man to beat, setting up an intriguing finish to the championship. "It's got to be 50-50 now and the championship could still go either way," he said. "Michael is going to be very powerful here this weekend, that's for certain, and we have done a lot to close the gap."

PRACTICE TIMES FROM MONZA

1. E Irvine (GB, Ferrari) 1min 24.987sec; 2. M Schumacher (Ger, Ferrari) 1:25.248; 3. D Coulthard (GB, McLaren) 1:25.690; 4. J Villeneuve (Can, Williams) 1:26.063; 5. M Hakkinen (Fin, McLaren) 1:26.158; 6. H-H Frenzler (Ger, Williams) 1:26.628; 7. J Trulli (It, Prost) 1:26.748; 8. D Hill (GB, Jordan) 1:26.836; 9. G Fisichella (It, Benetton) 1:26.885; 10. A Wurz (Austria, Benetton) 1:26.896; 11. R Schumacher (Ger, Jordan) 1:27.078;	12. J Herbert (GB, Sauber) 1:27.541; 13. O Panis (Fr, Prost) 1:27.876; 14. R Barrichello (Br, Stewart) 1:28.066; 15. R Rosset (Br, Tyrrell) 1:28.088; 16. T Takagi (Japan, Tyrrell) 1:28.135; 17. J Verstappen (Hol, Stewart) 1:28.606; 18. E Turoso (Arg, Minardi) 1:28.847; 19. S Nakano (Japan, Minardi) 1:28.849; 20. M Salo (Fin, Arrows) 1:29.603; 21. P Diniz (Br, Arrows) 1:29.871. Did not complete: J Alesi (Fr, Sauber).
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GRAND PRIX 1998: HOW THEY STAND FOR ITALY

WEST McLAREN MERCEDES Position: 1 Points: 125	8. Mika Hakkinen Position: 1 Points: 77 1998 best: 1
7. David Coulthard Position: 3 Points: 45 1998 best: 1	4. Eddie Irvine Position: 4 Points: 32 1998 best: 2
SCUDERIA FERRARI MARLBORO Position: 2 Points: 102	3. Michael Schumacher Position: 2 Points: 70 1998 best: 1
WINFIELD WILLIAMS Position: 3 Points: 33	2. Heinz-Harald Frentzen Position: 5 Points: 13 1998 best: 3
1. Jacques Villeneuve Position: 5 Points: 20 1998 best: 3	5. Giancarlo Fisichella Position: 8 Points: 15 1998 best: 2
BENETTON FORMULA ONE Position: 3 Points: 32	6. Alexander Wurz Position: 6 Points: 17 1998 best: 4
JORDAN MUGEN-HONDA Position: 5 Points: 26	9. Damon Hill Position: 7 Points: 16 1998 best: 1
10. Ralf Schumacher Position: 10 Points: 10 1998 best: 2	14. Johnny Herbert Position: 15 Points: 1 1998 best: 6
SAUBER PETRONAS Position: 6 Points: 6	13. Jean Alesi Position: 13 Points: 7 1998 best: 3
DANKA ARROWS Position: 7 Points: 6	16. Pedro Diniz Position: 14 Points: 3 1998 best: 5
17. Mika Salo Position: 14 Points: 3 1998 best: 4	18. Rubens Barrichello Position: 12 Points: 4 1998 best: 5
STEWART FORD Position: 7 Points: 3	19. Jos Verstappen 1998 best: 12
PROST PEUGEOT Position: 9 Points: 5	11. Olivier Panis 1998 best: 9
TYRRELL FORD	20. Toranosuke Takagi 1998 best: 9
21. Ricardo Rosset 1998 best: 8	22. Shinji Nakano 1998 best: 7
MINARDI TEAM	23. Esteban Tuero 1998 best: 8



THE RACE ON TELEVISION AND RADIO
TV: Qualifying Today 11.40 Race Tomorrow 12.25pm (Thu), 11.50pm (Fri/Sat)
RADIO: Race live in Sunday Sport on BBC Radio 5 Live

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We're proud to be a part of British football. It looks in great shape, and getting better every single day. A little like a striker who, as a 15 year old was first seen live on Sky Sports in an England schoolboy international in 1995.

A striker called Michael Owen.

SKY SPORTS
The home of football

سكرا من الاصل

Battles on away soil will sort out men from the boys



MICHAEL LYNAGH

THE opening weekend of the season in England saw victory achieved by every home side and it seems certain that the Allied Dunbar Premiership will be won by the team that can regularly travel and win without the comforts of home.

In Australia, we don't have this home and away problem, apart from the television programme of that name. Our club competitions are based in one city. The inter-state games are played on a home and away basis, but I have never held too many fears about travelling from Brisbane to Sydney to play New South Wales — apart from the normal nerves, of course. The Super 12 is a different business altogether, travel and jet lag being the biggest contributing factor to away losses.

I first encountered this attitude to home-ground advantage when I

played in Italy. It was strange to me that everyone was available to play at home one week and then, suddenly, a mystery injury would surface the following week when the trip to Italy was scheduled. After I had played there and experienced the hostile home crowd, I developed an ailment myself the next time we were due to play there.

When I started playing with Saracens, I was told by many experienced English players that King'sholm, the home of Gloucester, was the hardest ground to win at. Why? "The Shed," was their response. "Just wait until you hear The Shed."

When we did get to Gloucester, started poorly and got behind on the scoreboard, I could almost hear "I told you so."

This then becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. Subconsciously, you tell yourself that it is impossible to win

and, when this starts to occur, it becomes a reality, then a pattern, and ultimately a tradition — it is always impossible to win at Gloucester. In life, you typically get what you expect; expect to lose and you have already lost.

The factors that appear to contribute the most to players and teams having problems away from home are unfamiliarity with the environment and the animosity of the home supporters.

Players are comfortable playing in front of spectators who are supportive. They are on his team's side generally and sometimes negative towards the opposition.

Every player and squad has a set routine that works well. Both the routine and the crowd are things that contribute greatly to the comfort level and, therefore, to the performance of the team. When the

team goes on the road, these factors are disturbed. How the individual and the team cope will have a direct influence on their success.

The crowd can affect players in different ways. The supporters cannot come on the field and play against you, but sometimes that is just how it feels. I often found it easier playing in front of crowds of between 30,000 and 60,000 in huge arenas than playing in front of a couple of thousand in a suburban club ground. You can hear individual comments and generally you feel a lot closer to the public.

At, say, Twickenham, the crowd is far away and seems to blend into one big, noisy background with a certain degree of anonymity — until you make an error, and then you feel the crowd and want to dig yourself a hole.

How do you overcome all this and start to perform well away from the comforts of your own patch? Finding a pre-match routine that works is the first step. By this, I don't mean just putting the left sock on before the right one in the dressing-room: it is all about getting yourself comfortable, eating the same foods that you would at home, at the same time, both before the game and the night before.

Sleeping well is important. There is often temptation, because you are away from home with friends, to be enticed to play cards, go to the movies or generally stay up later than you would in your normal home environment.

It is necessary to travel and arrive at your destination in time to allow you to settle into your normal routine. What you eat while travelling is also important. We all know what

airport and train station food tastes like: not only does it taste great, but it is really good for you too.

Warming up before the game should mirror what works for you at your home ground. After all, it serves to ready your body to perform.

How to deal with the hostile crowd is probably the most important issue. Being able to say that it does not concern you is easy; actually to believe that and perform is another thing. The crowd should be irrelevant to your performance.

How the team deals with this phenomenon collectively, coaching staff and management included, is of huge significance in turning around the problem of playing away from home. In terms of importance to this season, I repeat: whichever team copes best with away fixtures will win the title.

RUGBY UNION: NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE DETERMINED TO SOLVE PROBLEMS

Baron sets sights on finding cash formula

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

RUGBY union's revolving door swung open again yesterday. The leading English clubs having announced the resignation of Doug Ash, their chief executive, on Wednesday, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) was able to announce the long-awaited appointment of its chief executive, Francis Baron.

It is 13 months since Tony Hallett resigned as the RFU secretary, a victim of the power struggle involving the clubs and Cliff Brittle, then chairman of the union's management board. For much of that time Brittle took cautious steps towards a replacement for Hallett, insisting that the right person to run the multimillion-pound business that rugby is becoming would not fall out of the nearest tree.

When Brittle himself was ousted by a vote of the annual meeting in July, Brian Baister, his successor, committed himself to filling the void as soon as possible. Baister has kept his promise and the newcomer is due to take up his new position in mid-October. "Francis was our first choice in a competitive field," Baister said. "We all look forward to work-

ing with him to find solutions and a way forward for the union."

Baron, 52, has an impressive business pedigree that, significantly, includes a background in marketing and a spell working in television. "My clear remit is to get the game profitable," the former chief executive to First Choice Holidays plc said. "At the moment no one is making any money, including the RFU. I want to find ways of achieving

profitability within the industry and to do that, you must have a clear product to sell to fans, television, sponsors."

Baron graduated from Cambridge University with a degree in mechanical sciences. He missed his Blue but played open-side flanker for Rosslyn Park in the mid-1970s, though his loyalties have now switched to Richmond who, for all the efforts made by Va'aiga Tuigamala on Newcastle's behalf last weekend, made a statement of their own against the champions. Tuigamala and friends must now seek to open their account against Bath this afternoon.

"If you are a follower of the game, as I am, you must be dismayed at what is going on," Baron said. "The one thing that is clear to me is that if we can get the game sorted out, properly administered and structured, with everyone behind it, we have a product which will be increasingly attractive, particularly with digital television just starting."

Since Baron was involved in negotiating the rights of the 1991 World Cup for

Screensport, which took the tournament into 40 million homes throughout Europe, he brings to the party just the expertise the RFU has sought. Above all, the new man must bring stability; faces within the game have changed almost as swiftly as agendas, leaving the game at a loss to know with whom agreements can be reached.

The English clubs, who know they can do business with Baister even though they have not gone out of their way to help him, will reserve judgement on Baron. It is time, however, for the musical chairs to stop and for administrators within the game to start trusting each other once more.

"Some of the things happening in our game defy common sense," Glamour Griffiths, chairman of the Welsh Rugby Union, said this week. His union is still talking of sanctions to be imposed against their breakaway clubs, Cardiff and Swansea, though a degree of pragmatic procrastination seems the order of the day.

That is the RFU's approach too: the council has agreed that games between first-division clubs and the two Welsh clubs are outside the spirit of the Mayfair Agreement, but has empowered the management board to find a solution. Thus decisions are batted back and forth over an invisible net, the latest round of talks suggesting that working parties on the projected British league may find a way out of the impasse.

The rest of the game, though, still goes on. Peter Trunkfield, president of the RFU, will meet the English Rugby Counties Association at Coventry tomorrow to discuss the development of junior rugby; perhaps a moment's silence will be in order, in memory of Michael Pearey, Trunkfield's predecessor in 1990-1, who died earlier this week after a lifetime devoted to playing and administering the game. A memorial service will be held at Christ's Hospital next month.



Tuigamala: efforts in vain



Pichot promises to be one of the personalities of the Allied Dunbar Premiership campaign Photograph: Ashley Coombes

Diminutive Pichot is happy with business at Richmond

Agustin Pichot the scrum half Scotland let slip through their fingers — not that Pichot, with his flowing locks, lean, tanned face and Spanish accent is readily identifiable as a child of the game, but surely, in these days of loose affiliations, anyone educated at St Andrew's School must have a Scottish qualification.

Sadly for the Scots, who readily appreciated Pichot's skills when he played scrum half for the Barbarians at Murrayfield in 1996, the school that he attended was in Buenos Aires and Argentina, who saw scores of players leave their shores to compete in Europe or elsewhere in the southern hemisphere in the years between 1985 and 1995, are not about to relinquish their grasp on Pichot.

They have, however, let him stray as far as Richmond, or rather Reading, which is where Pichot's employers now ply their trade. For that, Richmond and Ashley Levet, their benefactor, will be duly grateful, because the lithe youngster will surely be one of the personalities of the 1998-99 Allied Dunbar Premiership. Newcastle, the champions, will testify to that after Pichot's display against them on the opening Saturday of the season.

In these days of increasing power, of shaven-headed hulks and wings who resemble locks, Pichot, 24, a modest 5ft 9in and 12st 7lb, is a throwback: smart as a whip, swift and elusive about the field, with all the feel for a rugby ball that his countrymen so frequently possess.

There is also the tradition.



DAVID HANDS

his country. Pichot acknowledges his good fortune to be emerging at a time when Argentina were being forced to relax their stringent amateur approach to international selection. "If things had not changed, maybe I wouldn't have come to England," he said, "but I talked to the president of the rugby federation and made sure that I would still be invited to play for Argentina."

With that assurance, Pichot was free to achieve the ambition he had nurtured since his first visit to England as a 14-year-old — to live and work here, specifically in London, where he has just moved into a new home in Twickenham. The offers came flooding in, but Richmond, with whom he has a two-year contract, clinched the deal.

There are, though, conditions that Pichot could not ignore. "If my mother thought I was not going to keep up my studies, she'd be on a plane to drag me back," he said. Christina and Enrique, the most supportive of parents, have always insisted that their second of three sons and one daughter maintains his studies and so, to the law and marketing degree he pursued in Buenos Aires, Pichot is now adding a course in business studies at University College, Brunel — the old West London Institute.

It is significant that two of his models are Pierre Berbizier, the long-serving France scrum half, and Dewi Morris, late of England — one a crafty, guileful player, the other full of bustling exuberance. If Pichot can combine the two, then surely he must have more years in which to admire his perceptive play. "Maybe after the World Cup I'll say: 'Yes, I want more of this,'" he said. "That's how I am thinking now."

MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE

L. Scottish v Leicester
Head to head: Leicester lead 1-0
Derrick Lee returns after suspension at fullback for Scottish, who upset the odds by beating Sale last week and have lost only one of their last seven games. Ian McCausland moves to right wing, in the pack, Magnus Macdonald replaces the injured Paul Johnson and Guy Merson-Baker, from Western Province, makes his league debut. Leicester make one change with Graham Rowntree returning for Derek Jelley at tighthead.

Newcastle v Bath
Head to head: 2-2
Both lost heavily last week and will be looking to put things right. Saints are missing Pat Lam, on World Cup duty with Samoa. Grant Seely comes in. Jason Chandler is in the second after Simon Foster's call-up to the England Commonwealth Games team. Matt Allen is also in the 22. For Quins, Jason Kayser comes in for Darren O'Leary on the wing. Chris Wright plays his first game of the season at fly-half, John Schuster moving to centre and Pete Mensah dropping to the bench. Adam Leach, no longer counting as an overseas player, is preferred to Bibby.

Richmond v Gloucester
Head to head: 1-1
Richmond are on a high after trumping Newcastle. Not surprisingly, the team picks last again. With access problems again expected at the Madejski Stadium, fans should arrive early. Entertainment starts at 2pm in the shape of an open spectacular. Gloucester are missing Tony Flancon, who is with Western Samoa. Simon Mannix comes in at inside centre; Phil Vickery has a neck strain and is replaced by Andy Deacon.

W Hartlepool v London
Trials (four arrows)
Head to head: London Irish lead 2-1
West, who kick off at the Victoria Park stadium, make one change following their defeat last week by Swansea. Shaun Cassidy replaces Dan Hyde in the back row. Insh who also came unscathed at Kingsholm, has a new half-back pairing in James Brown and Peter Richards. Kie Fullam starts at tighthead in place of Rob Hardwick and Robert Todd replaces Nick Burrows at centre.

Friendly fire awaits Saracens

WHY, when there is a full league programme of fixtures in Wales today, is the main attraction elsewhere?

Saracens, England's cup-holders, visit Cardiff Arms Park. This match, along with that of Swansea's against Wasps the following day, will provide, one could argue, a significant pointer as to the way these so-called friendly cross-border encounters are likely to develop and as an indication of their future value.

Both Bedford and West Hartlepool, who, respectively, the two Welsh clubs met last weekend, were themselves new to the Allied Dunbar Premiership and consequently could not provide a proper measure of the strength of the two leading clubs in Wales.

"There's no such thing as a friendly", is the way the game has been promoted this week in Cardiff. This, to a degree, is true.

Once a player dons his club colours, and a large crowd turns up to see him play, it takes a careless frame of mind, or else a foolish one, to perform in a lower gear than would normally be the case.

The expectation is that Cardiff will draw a crowd today that will be above the aggregate figure of 8,140 for all four matches on the opening Saturday of the Welsh season. Membership of the Cardiff club and season ticket holders already show a 40 per cent increase on last year. Yet Gareth Davies, the Cardiff chief executive, remains cautious. "This is a new scenario for us," he said yesterday. "We don't know how many will turn up and we are keeping our fingers crossed."

In the past two days alone, with a growing conviction that there is a full flourish

of competitive matches against the most powerful clubs in the land, Davies points out that Cardiff have sold more than 1,000 additional season tickets.

The ball, to begin with, is firmly in Cardiff's court. Saracens have chosen a full side, in which case Cardiff will need to be more convincing than they were against Bedford last week when Saracens continued where they left off in May and gave Northampton a lesson.

Within the main contest there is the appetising prospect of half-back of Robert Howley, of Cardiff, competing against Kyran Bracken and Lee Jarvis, 21, may learn a thing or two from the wily Saracens, Alain Penaud.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of these fixtures, anticipation for this match runs higher than for any in the Welsh league.

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Giants show huge potential

AMONG the 13 clubs in the Budweiser League that will tip off the 1998-99 campaign this week will be two new franchises, one newly-amalgamated club, eight new coaches, and a host of new players, most of them from across the Atlantic. All too few English players will contribute.

Few clubs will have squads bearing any resemblance to those that finished last season. If that is said in the case of Birmingham Bulls and of Birmingham Leopards, who captured the main honours last season, the main honours last season, with exciting groups of play-

ers that have broken up since, it will be welcomed in others such as Manchester Giants, the perennial under-achievers.

Under their new coach, Nick Nurse, the Giants have assembled a cast that should prove too strong for their rivals. Nurse may have a problem, however, dealing with their over-sized egos. "It could well be the Giants will need more than one ball on court," Mike Smith, the league's chief executive, joked.

In tempting so many talent-

ed players, the Giants have apparently exceeded the salary cap of £157,000, which means that John White must sit out the opening match tonight against the Bulls. As sentiment would have it, Nurse, the former Bulls coach, will be pitting his wits against his friend, Mike Finger, the man he recommended. Finger has reinforced his depleted squad by signing Neville Austin.

Austin's former club, London Towers, who have merged with Crystal Palace, receive Edinburgh Rocks, one of the new franchises, tonight.

AS THE Bosman ruling from football takes effect in rugby league, Scott Naylor became the latest player to move clubs without a transfer fee yesterday when the centre signed for Bradford Bulls from Salford Reds for the 1999 season.

Henry Paul, another Bradford-bound player, Brett Goldspink and Ferret Tullagi are others serving out contracts with existing clubs before moving as free agents at the end of this season. Only players younger than 24 now command transfer fees. As more

Naylor free to join in Bulls' stampede

than 50 Super League players are nearing the end of existing deals, the post-Bosman era is set to unleash a frenzy of player movement. With an estimated 15 players at Salford seeking new deals, the Reds are especially vulnerable, now that Naylor has followed Nathan McAvooy, his fellow centre, to Bradford.

None of the worries about salary cap restrictions and reductions in central funding to accommodate Gatushead's entry in 1999 have inhibited Bradford, who have responded

to their indifferent season by overhauling their personnel.

After the announcement earlier this week that Paul will team up with his brother, Robbie, at half back next season, Bradford confirmed a two-year deal for Naylor, 26, as replacement for Graeme Bradley, who intends to retire after the JJB Super League playoffs next month. Matthew Elliott, the Bradford coach, said that Naylor would add impact and quality to an outside back

line that has missed the pugnacious Danny Peacock.

In the tussle with London Broncos for the fifth play-off spot, it is important that Bradford maintain their improved home form when Warrington Wolves visit tomorrow, despite Tevita Vaikona and Man Calland joining the casualty list and a further doubt about McAvooy's fitness.

St Helens, who also have more of an eye on next season with Ellery Hanley due in the coaching seat, have withdrawn contract offers to Karle

Hammond and Ian Pickavance. Tommy Martyn is likely to return against Castleford Tigers after three weeks on the sidelines with an Achilles tendon problem.

Wigan Warriors and Leeds Rhinos will be looking to continue their vein of form away to the bottom clubs, Salford and Huddersfield Giants, respectively. Denis Betts returns for Wigan after a four-game absence. Was Davies, grandson of Billy Boston, the club's record try scorer, is on the Wigan bench.

Equities claw back early losses

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % Change, P/E

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Table of stock prices for alcoholic beverages

BANKS

Table of stock prices for banks

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Table of stock prices for food manufacturers

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Table of stock prices for diversified industrials

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Table of stock prices for breweries, pubs & rest

ELECTRICITY

Table of stock prices for electricity

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

Table of stock prices for electronic & elect

BUILDING MATERIALS

Table of stock prices for building materials

CHEMICALS

Table of stock prices for chemicals

ENGINEERING

Table of stock prices for engineering

CONSTRUCTION

Table of stock prices for construction

DISTRIBUTORS

Table of stock prices for distributors

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

Table of stock prices for engineering vehicles

LEISURE & HOTELS

Table of stock prices for leisure & hotels

MINING

Table of stock prices for mining

PROPERTY

Table of stock prices for property

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Table of stock prices for telecommunications

TRANSPORT

Table of stock prices for transport

WATER

Table of stock prices for water

OTHER FINANCIAL

Table of stock prices for other financial

RETAILERS, FOOD

Table of stock prices for retailers, food

RETAILERS, GENERAL

Table of stock prices for retailers, general

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

Table of stock prices for alternative inv market

PHARMACEUTICALS

Table of stock prices for pharmaceuticals

BRITISH FUNDS

Table of stock prices for British funds

SHORTS (under 5 years)

Table of short-term interest rates

LONGS (over 10 years)

Table of long-term interest rates

UNDATED

Table of undated interest rates

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

Table of medium-term interest rates

INDEX LINKED ON projected inflation of 5%

Table of index-linked interest rates

Table of stock prices (continued)

PRINTING & PAPER

Table of stock prices for printing & paper

PROPERTY

Table of stock prices for property

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Table of stock prices for telecommunications

TRANSPORT

Table of stock prices for transport

WATER

Table of stock prices for water

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Large vertical advertisement for 'Mark rally spite Japan gloom' with a portrait of a man and 'ODDS' text.

Handwritten text at the bottom: سكر من الأمل

BUSINESS

WEEKEND
MONEY
PAGES 55 TO 64

ODDS ON 52
Can Hong Kong
keep holding its
economic nerve

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12 1998

Trotman to stand down early as Ford chief



Trotman: British born

FROM OLIVER AUGUST
IN NEW YORK

ALEX TROTMAN, the British-born executive chairman of Ford, yesterday announced his resignation, handing over the reins to William Ford Jr, the great-grandson of Henry Ford, the legendary founder of the company.

Mr Trotman, 65, was expected to resign at the end of next year but he said he chose to go 12 months early because the revamping of the company had proceeded ahead of schedule.

William Ford Jr is currently head of the company's finance committee and has been groomed as a successor at the behest of the Ford family that

Founder's great-grandson ready to assume mantle of power in family carmaking firm

holds 40 per cent of the voting shares. He will be the first family member to lead the company since Henry Ford II bowed out in 1980 after 35 years at the wheel. Henry Ford I was in charge for only ten years from 1908 until 1918.

William Ford Jr will be responsible for finances and representation while manufacturing operations will report to Jac Nasser, who will move up from head of the motoring division to group chief executive.

Mr Trotman was born in Middlesex and educated in Scotland but took American citizenship in 1975 after taking an MBA at Michigan State University.

He started at Ford as a trainee in 1955 after four years in the Royal Air Force and rose to leadership positions in Europe and Asia before reaching the very top in 1993.

Mr Trotman said: "Over these past several months, the board has discussed succession following my

retirement and has concluded that the roles of the company and of the chief executive officer should be separated.

"Jac is already running the largest part of the company and, with Bill as chairman of the board, we have tremendous strength and continuity as we move forward."

Maryann Keller, an analyst at ING Baring Furman Setz, said: "You can't possibly fault any part of Trotman's tenure as chairman."

William Ford Jr said: "The Ford Motor Company is my heritage, and has always been part of my life. I want to serve this company to the very best of my ability."



Ford: groomed as successor

Markets rally in spite of Japanese gloom

BY ASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

INTERNATIONAL markets suffered another rollercoaster day yesterday as an unexpected firm showing on Wall Street helped to erase earlier losses prompted by Clinton's and deepening economic gloom in Japan.

In New York the Dow Jones industrial average climbed more than 100 points in early trading as investors took heart from the latest apology from President Clinton, some encouraging third-quarter earnings reports from hi-tech companies and renewed hopes of a cut in interest rates.

The lull on Wall Street helped European markets to rebound from heavy losses caused by another hefty fall overnight in Tokyo stocks. The Nikkei fell 5.1 per cent, breaching the key 14,000 level, after publication of data showing the economy contracting at a slower rate than anticipated. Tokyo also dragged other Asian markets lower, with stocks in Hong Kong closing down 3.5 per cent at 7,576.43.

The Japanese Ministry of Economic Planning said Japan's economy had contracted by 0.8 per cent in the second quarter of the year, leaving GDP 3.5 per cent lower on an annualised basis.

It was the first time that Japan's GDP has fallen for three consecutive quarters since comparative records began in 1955.

Most individual elements of GDP showed a decline, with consumer spending down 0.8 per cent, housing investment falling 1.9 per cent and capital investment sliding 5.5 per cent during the quarter.

Taichi Sakaiya, Economic Planning Minister, admitted that the figures were far worse than anticipated and that the Government's own forecast of GDP growth of 1.9 per cent was nowhere out of reach. Analysts are predicting that the economy will contract by 1.3 per cent across the year to

March 31. Eisuke Sakikibara, the Japanese Vice-President for Finance who has been dubbed "Mr Yen" by the markets, added to the gloom by giving a warning that the downturn is likely to persist into the autumn and that the country is "on the verge of a deflationary spiral".

The yen, however, continued to strengthen against the dollar as Clinton's woes and the repatriation of funds by Japanese companies helped to bolster the exchange rate. At one stage the yen had climbed to 128 to the dollar before settling later at 130, a rise of 3 yen on the day.

In London, shares continued to gyrate wildly, tumbling nearly 150 points in early trading to dip below the 5,000 level for the first time this year.

The Dow's stronger showing, however, dragged the market higher and enabled the FTSE 100 to close just 18 points lower at 5,118.6. The pound also stabilised after hitting a ten-month low against the mark on Thursday, closing marginally down at DM2.8411.

Other European markets also followed Wall Street higher to close with only marginal losses.

Although the FTSE 100 has swung in a 400-point range this week, it closed yesterday just 48 points lower than its Monday opening price. Traders admitted, however, that with this kind of volatility in the market it is far too early to say whether the bear market is close to running its course.

The markets face another anxious week ahead, with further developments expected in the Clinton impeachment case, G7 ministers due to meet in London on Monday and Alan Greenspan and George Soros to testify on the global economy and market volatility on Wednesday.

Commentary, page 52



Percy Bilton founded the firm in 1936. His children are believed to be split over Slough's offer

Feud-ridden Bilton faces £256m bid from Slough

BY FRASER NELSON AND JOANNA GEARY

SLOUGH ESTATES has launched a hostile £256 million takeover bid for Bilton, the property company whose independence has been protected by a family trust for 58 years.

Sir Nigel Mobbs, Slough chairman, has seized on a family feud dividing the five directors of the trust controlling 35 per cent of the Bilton shares.

If his bid succeeds, Slough will become one of the most powerful industrial property companies in the South of England with assets of more than £1.5 billion.

Sir Nigel's cash offer of 290p per share is understood to have been welcomed by Derek Bilton and Hazel Farrer, trustees whose late father, Percy Bilton, founded the company in 1936.

However, Slough believes they are opposed by the three remaining directors of the controlling Glenhazel trust - including Donald Bilton, 77, Percy's eldest son.

Derek Bilton and Mrs Farrer have been embroiled in a legal battle with the other three directors since August last year - arguing that they should not be directors of both the company and a shareholding trust.

Sir Nigel said: "These internal disputes have provided us with an opportunity to make our approach. Our takeover bid is full and fair and provides a solution to the problems that would otherwise be determined in the High Court."

Shares of Bilton, which had

sunk from 288p to 212p, jumped to 293p yesterday, just short of Slough's cash offer.

The City said that Slough's offer may well flush out other prospective bidders who may have been put off by Bilton's complex ownership structure.

Sir Nigel said: "People have been casting their eyes over Bilton on an extremely regular basis because it is an underperforming company. But everyone has been put off by this trust."

GE Capital and Brixton Estates have been named as likely rival bidders.

The Bilton family dispute is understood to have erupted over the role of Ron Groom, the 68-year-old managing director who rejoined Bilton in 1995 - three years after resigning with a £1.1 million payoff.

Mr Groom yesterday rejected Slough's 290p-per-share offer on behalf of the board. Bilton's last reported net asset value is 323p.

Some rebel shareholders are understood to be concerned about Mr Groom's affection for Bilton's £3.5 million shooting ground in Berkshire and the £3 million salmon fishing rights in Deeside.

The control of the company will be decided by Glenhazel and its sister trust, which own 35 per cent of the shares, and Schroders, which controls a 17 per cent stake.

Slough is offering a cash-and-paper alternative bid worth 300p per share, which values Bilton at £264 million.

Carlton unlikely to mount full-scale bid for Arsenal

BY JASON NISSÉ

CARLTON Communications is unlikely to mount a full-scale bid for Arsenal, a well-placed source said yesterday.

Michael Green, Carlton's chairman, has been told that neither Danny Fiszman nor the Carr family, who own more than 50 per cent of Arsenal's shares, are prepared to sell out in any offer.

However, the club, where Mr Green's friend, David Dein, is deputy chairman, may be prepared to allow Carlton to

take a stake of up to 30 per cent, made up of new shares, and give it a seat on the board.

Arsenal needs at least £60 million to pay for expansion plans either at its existing stadium at Highbury or at a new purpose-built ground in Islington. Council blocks Arsenal's expansion plans.

Enic, the investment group linked to Joe Lewis, the Bahamas-based billionaire, is understood to be in talks to buy Alan Sugar's 40 per cent stake

in Tottenham Hotspur. Mr Sugar is said to have rejected an 80p share offer.

David Moores, chairman of Liverpool, has said that his family's controlling interest in the club is not for sale.

BSkyB, in which News International, the owner of The Times, has a 40 per cent stake, has purchased a 9 per cent holding in Manchester United, which agreed a £623 million bid from the media group earlier this week.

A WEEK IN THE CITY

The City found a new play-off this week after SkyB's £623 million bid for Manchester United caused a welter of interest in the Premier League. Fans may have objected to a deal changing the focus of the club and the game, but Martin Edwards, Manchester United's chief executive, had little to grumble about, as he stands to make £85 million from the acquisition.

Shares in the company rose from 159p on Monday to yesterday's closing price of 211p, 18p lower than the 240p bid price amid fears of a protracted Office of Fair Trading investigation. BSK's ended the week buying a 9 per cent stake in Manchester United.

Elsewhere Arsenal shares more than trebled in value after Carlton Communications announced it was looking at the club. Football shares

across the board jumped on average 15 per cent. Despite a spirited start to the week in Hong Kong the mood on international markets remained grim. Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, admitted that the US could not remain "an oasis of prosperity unaffected by the economic turmoil affecting the rest of the world".

Wall Street struggled after news of America's largest ever current account deficit and was not helped by the political uncertainty surrounding President Clinton.

The yen plunged after the Japanese economy suffered its third successive quarter of negative growth, following on from the Bank of Japan's halving of bank lending rates to 0.25 per cent, further fuelling concern of economic decline. The roble slid to a new low when the Duma overwhelmingly rejected President

Yeltsin's candidate for Prime Minister and the chairman of the country's central bank resigned. Two more banks, Credit Suisse First Boston and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, became the latest victims of Russian lending, with net exposures of £1.34 billion and £100 million respectively.

In Britain the mood was also subdued. The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee's refusal to cut base rates was softened with the assurance that it would not raise them again. The pound slid to its weakest level against the mark for more than ten months, and manufacturers attacked the MPC for not cutting rates after the CBI revealed that business confidence had plunged to its lowest level since November 1992.

For comfort and confidence many looked to the Farnborough Air Show.

MATTHEW BARBOUR

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5118.6	(-18.0)
Yield	3.25%	(2.84%)
FTSE All Share	2383.63	(-12.04)
Nikkei	13916.98	(-749.05)
New York		
Dow Jones	7832.61	(+37.07)
S&P Composite	967.38	(+7.19)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5.75%	(5.75%)
3-month bill	5.12%	(5.12%)
Long bond	104.7%	(104.7%)
Yield	5.18%	(5.18%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	7.75%	(7.75%)
Life long bill		
future (Dec)	113.73	(113.89)

STERLING

New York		
£/\$	1.6655*	(1.6697)
London:		
3-month	1.8839	(1.8812)
FF	5.5509	(5.5401)
FF	8.5377	(8.5409)
SF	2.3364	(2.3367)
Yen	220.65	(220.85)
£/¥	162.7	(162.5)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.6880*	(1.6845)
DM	1.3875*	(1.3840)
SF	131.05*	(134.20)
Yen	108.5	(108.5)
5 index		
Tokyo close Yen	130.76	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Nov)	\$13.55	(\$13.50)
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GOLD

London close	\$292.95	(\$292.95)
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* denotes midday trading price

Dale loses face in £17m bid race

BARRY DALE, the former chief executive of Littlewoods, who in his time has put together offers for Sears, Holland & Barrett and Littlewoods itself, was yesterday forced to concede defeat in a £17 million takeover bid (Jason Nisse writes).

Nearly three months of detailed negotiations came to nothing after Creightons, the natural fragrance group that Mr Dale runs, had to admit it could not raise enough cash to complete an agreed deal to buy Potter & Moore, its rival. Mr Dale must now return to the drawing board and face up to the expected slump in Creightons' share price on Monday when the shares are expected to be suspended since mid-June.

The man once dubbed "the King of Warrington" was strangely silent yesterday, but a colleague said: "Barry could not understand why bankers would not jump to attention and write him a cheque for £100 million."

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HomeBuyer	5.75%	5 years	5 years	5 years
HomeBuyer	5.75%	5 years	5 years	5 years
HomeBuyer	5.75%	5 years	5 years	5 years
HomeBuyer	5.75%	5 years	5 years	5 years
HomeBuyer	5.75%	5 years	5 years	5 years
HomeBuyer	5.75%	5 years	5 years	5 years

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Toshiba to cut forecast profit to nil

By GEORGE SIVELL

TOSHIBA, the Japanese corporation, has cut its forecast of profits for the current year to zero from 65 billion yen (£294 million). Revenue is now seen at 5.5 trillion yen (£25 billion), down from a previous forecast of 5.55 trillion.

Taizo Nishimuro, the president of Toshiba, said that the company would spin off nine businesses from April next year and cut the workforce by March 2000 from 64,000 at present to 60,000.

Mr Nishimuro did not elaborate on which parts of the business would be sold off. Directors' salaries will be cut by up to 20 per cent starting next month.

Mr Nishimuro blamed the profits forecast on lower prices of microchips and peripherals for personal computers. He added that the prices of memory chips had fallen by more than the company had expected. Sram, flash memory and Asic prices also fell substantially.

Earlier this year Toshiba forecast that the price of 64M Dram chips would average \$14 in the year to March. This compares with the current price of \$9.

Schroders to make £35m of provisions

By RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SCHRODERS, the merchant bank, said yesterday that it was making first-half provisions of £35 million against its exposure to South-East Asia. It gave warning of further charges at the end of the year if market conditions failed to improve.

The bank, which set aside £23.9 million for its Asian problems in the previous six months, said that just over half of the provisions related to £59.1 million in US-denominated bonds and loans to Indonesia, Korea and Thailand, the three IMF-assisted countries.

Win Bischoff, chairman, said: "While we have been able to reduce our Asian exposures somewhat since the end of 1997, the economic situation has deteriorated further. Additional provisions may be necessary." Schroders's gross exposure to Asia, excluding Japan, was £375 million at June 30.

The provision overshadowed the bank's strong revenue growth in the first six months,

with underlying profits up 27 per cent to £166 million. This was largely down to a better-than-expected performance from the investment banking division, where pre-tax profits jumped 45 per cent to £85.3 million. Asset management rose 12 per cent to £81.1 million year on year, although profits were slightly down on the previous six months.

Total funds under management rose just 9 per cent to £116.7 billion. The underlying growth of the total portfolio was slightly over 6 per cent.

After provisions, pre-tax profits were £141 million, helped by a £10 million write-back. Excluding the write-back, there would have been virtually no rise in pre-tax profits after exceptional.

The interim dividend, payable on October 29, will be 5p (4.7p). Earnings per share slipped to 34.1p (34.2p).

Tempus, page 53



In the picture: Terry Bate, right, chairman, and Chris Rowlands, chief executive, saw The Television Corporation, the television services and programme provider, achieve an 11 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to £1.69 million. Earnings per share fell to 4.8p (5.6p), but the interim dividend increases 12 per cent to 1.4p.

Competition in electricity starts slowly

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

COMPETITION in household electricity will open with a whimper on Monday when less than 2 per cent of those able to switch supplier will do so.

About 10,000 households will move from their regional supplier to another company — out of 750,000 homes that have been selected for the first phase of competition. Yvonne Constance, chairman of the Electricity Consumers Committee, said the low number was down to a lack of competition in generation that meant suppliers were not able to cut prices enough to be attractive.

British Gas, the only outsider to enter the electricity market, said it has signed 440,000 customers nationwide and has had requests for information from 1.5 million. However, many of those who have signed to buy power from British Gas will have to wait months before they are switched because of the gradual phasing of the competition programme.

The market will be steadily deregulated by postcode areas until June when all homes will be able to shop around.

Caledonia mopsup Amber's shares

CALEDONIA INVESTMENTS is mopping up the remaining shares of Amber Industries in a deal that values specialist chemicals company at £20.6 million. The venture capital firm, in which the Cayzer family holds a near 40 per cent stake, already controls 75 per cent of Amber's stock through subsidiary, Caledonia Industrial & Services (CISL).

The agreed 130p-a-share cash offer represents a premium of 57.6 per cent to Thursday's closing price of 82.5p. Cl said it saw no immediate prospect of the price recovering to match the offer's terms. Amber, whose main UK subsidiary are Ambersil and Intachem, manufactures and distributes specialty chemicals. For the year to March, Amber reported pre-tax profit of £1.64 million. CISL said it was buying the shares because its existing stake had led to liquidity problems with few analysts bothering to cover the company. Caledonia said that Amber also needed additional resources to aid expansion.

John Mansfield in ed

JOHN MANSFIELD, the builders' merchant, suffered a pre-tax loss of £48,000 in the six months to June 30 on sales down from £6.4 million to £6 million. Earnings fell from 0.1 to losses of 0.02p a share. Again, there is no dividend. The company said the order book showed a much-improved position compared with last year. The company said that with a management team in place and restructuring emerging, was confident that the timber business would continue to improve.

Border beating budget

BORDER TELEVISION, the Cumbrian independent television company, is trading ahead of both budget and previous year. James Graham, chairman, said the company's market share of advertising revenue is consistently being that of the previous year. During August Border recorded highest ever market share. Mr Graham said current forecasts for September are excellent but beyond that he said would not comment, especially given early signs of a possible recession.

Bourne End wins lease

BOURNE END PROPERTIES has exchanged contracts to acquire the leasehold on a 120,000 sq ft shopping site from MEPC for £13.1 million. The Clarendon Centre, which Bourne End is acquiring a 193-year lease, is the dominant retail centre in Hyde, Manchester. It generates annual rental income of £1.15 million, reflecting a net initial yield of 8.41 per cent. Bourne End has also obtained an option purchase the 85,000 sq ft Centrepoint Retail Park in Aberdeen.

Kvaerner in rail deal

KVAERNER, the Norwegian industrial group that took over the Trafalgar House engineering and property conglomerate, said it has signed a letter of intent with Union Railways for a £140 million development of a ten-mile part of the Channel Tunnel rail link between Ashford and Lenham Heat. Kvaerner will keep trains running on Ashford's existing network while building the new railway through the centre of the town. The project is expected to be completed by summer 2002.

Dean Corp advances

DEAN CORPORATION, the business support services group, raised pre-tax profits from £739,000 to £954,000 in the six months to June 30 on sales up from £16.1 million to £18.8 million. The half-year dividend rises from 0.3p to 0.5p out of earnings down slightly from 1.13p to 1p. On current trading, Stephen Dean, chairman, said: "I am confident the company will continue to make good progress in the remainder of the year. The results for July are in line with expectations."

Delancey spends £5m

DELANCEY ESTATES has exchanged contracts to acquire The Darwin Centre, a freehold shopping centre in Shrewsbury, from Burford Investment Company for £35 million. The deal will be funded from existing cash resources. The Darwin Centre has approximately 200,000 sq ft of retail trading on the levels and is linked to a 950-space car park. The centre currently produces a net annual rental income of £2.22 million. Rough five-year rent reviews begin to fall in from the middle of 1999.

Merivale worth more

MERIVALE MOORE shares rose 6p to 69p after the property company revealed a rise in net asset value from 86.3p to 116.2p a share. Grenville Dean, chairman, said the board believed that the trend for consolidation among property companies will continue and that it is seeking suitable acquisitions. Pre-tax profits rose from £38,000 to £3.6 million although the figure includes £2 million of litigation damages it was awarded. Earnings rose from 3.6p to 18.9p, with the half-year dividend up to 2.5p (2.5p).

Gardiner in bid taks

SHARES in Gardiner Group, the industrial distributor company, rose 7p to 21p when it revealed that it was in talks. At this level the company is valued at £22.7 million. Investors of Gardiner made the announcement after a sudden surge in the company's share price. Earlier this year the shares had traded at 28p but halved in the general market slide. In the year to October 30, 1997, the company made £3.7 million before tax on sales of £98.1 million.

Cookson buys Accel

COOKSON GROUP, the UK industrial materials and electronic components company, has acquired Accel, of the UK for £14.8 million (£8.9 million). Accel makes speciality clean systems for the electronics industry. In the year to June 30 Accel earned operating profits of £1.6 million on sales of £3.6 million. Stephen Howard, Cookson chief executive, said the deal enhances Cookson's ability to provide integrated solutions to the expanding market for advanced packaging of electronic components.

FOURIST RATES		
	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.89	2.72
Austria Sch	21.08	19.42
Belgium Fr	51.89	57.03
Canada \$	2.67	2.48
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8870	0.8355
Denmark Kr	11.44	10.55
Egypt	5.93	5.32
Finland Mk	5.24	4.99
France F	10.04	9.25
Germany Dm	3.016	2.774
Greece Dr	5.18	4.79
Hong Kong \$	13.88	12.86
Ireland	1.79	1.69
Italy Lit	1.1927	1.1087
Spain Ptas	6.86	6.20
Swiss Sfr	2.992	2.769
Japan Yen	235.42	217.89
Malta	0.670	0.611
Netherlands Gld	2.493	2.313
New Zealand \$	3.38	3.14
Norway Kr	13.53	12.33
Portugal Esc	365.10	282.57
S Africa Rd	11.20	10.24
Spain Ptas	252.70	233.31
Sweden Kr	14.02	12.93
Switzerland Fr	2.497	2.279
Turkey Lira	476.779	444.559
USA \$	1.79	1.649

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
AN INT TO LIFE AS WE KNOW IT?
 Life, Liff's future market, has the threat of extinction as Germany muscles in its territory. But Liff's planning a grand new offensive to salvage its position as one of the City's great success stories. Can Brian Williamson, Liff's ex chairman, make it plan fly?
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THE TIMES SATURDAY

British dive a

Southampton

Blair T

Game's

سكزا من الأهل

Starr-struck markets



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

City screens strayed from their normal format yesterday as dealers hoped to read early editions of the *Sun* — so much more salacious than *The Sun*, according to the advance publicity. And there was legitimate justification for the interest in the special prosecutor's report. When he was covering in the OJ Office, Bill Clinton probably gave little heed to the implications his actions might have for world markets, but that was yet another of his oversights.

When there are other factors driving stock markets at this extraordinary time, the stability of the American Presidency is not without importance. Although Wall Street made a brave attempt at recovering some of the ground lost in its initial, drastic reaction to the first leaks from the Starr, it was not convincing. If Clinton persists in refusing to resign, pushing the US through the miserable process of impeaching the President will only add to the misery of the markets.

He clearly has not been devoting his full attention to matters economic for some time. In theory, it could be far more significant for the financial markets if Ed Rubin, the Treasury Secretary, or Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve chairman, were to be swept from office. But against a background of political and economic chaos elsewhere in the world, this is the time when it is

important for the US to appear to have strong leadership.

Yesterday brought fresh evidence of just how dreadful the situation in Japan has become, with production figures that amount to deep recession. Far from being the financial miracle it had so recently been judged, Japan now looks more like the Polly Peck economy. The Japanese Government must be bullied into taking strong medicine to begin to put right its own problems and curtail those it could inflict on the rest of the world. The leader of the Western world is not, right now, well positioned to tell them so.

However, help is at hand. On Tuesday Chancellor Gordon Brown will fly East to do his best to try to put the Japanese right. The likelihood is that he will not be recommending them to follow his example and set up a monetary policy committee. But he must be beginning to wonder whether handing over power over interest rates to such an independent body is the ideal route.

Sadly, being in Japan will mean that the Chancellor cannot join the brothers as they gather for the Trades Union Congress in Blackpool. He will miss hearing their cries for lower interest

rates as a response to the worsening conditions they are now experiencing in British industry. He will not have to explain why it was that the MPC chose not to cut interest rates.

But what happens if Alan Greenspan decides that the only way to avoid outright world recession is for the West to move together and cut rates. Does his call to Mr Brown simply get referred to the Bank of England?

Fruits of Bilton will be hard won

Percy Bilton brought an eccentric style to the eponymous property company he founded. Guests invited to lunch with the dapper, bespectacled gentleman would be a little taken aback to find that, while they were served a conventional three-course meal, Bilton himself would munch his way through a huge plate of grapes. They were

imported from his own estate in South Africa and he believed they would improve his longevity. So they did: he was still at the helm well into his eighties.

He is now long gone, but the eccentric style has survived at the company. Current chief executive Ronald Groom's inclinations are more towards hunting, shooting and fishing than vineyards, so what investors might perceive as a commercial property company has investments in salmon fishing and grouse shoots.

Percy's children have, in the past, been remarkably tolerant of such indulgences, considering the poor performance of the company. As Sir Nigel Mobbs, Slough Estates chairman, put it yesterday when he launched his £264 million takeover bid for the business, Bilton has some well-located properties but they have perhaps suffered in recent years from "under management".

Well, all that shooting and fishing takes time. Not so long ago

Ron Groom thought he might spend even less time in the office and, in 1992, he retired as chief executive with a £1.1 million payoff. Three years later he was back in fully salaried employ as managing director.

Sir Nigel reckons Slough Estates could make a much better job of running Bilton, and his offer would give the Bilton progeny a chance to realise some capital from their inheritance.

However, the complicated structure of the trust which holds their shares will not be easy to penetrate and Groom may be understandably loath to ease Sir Nigel's path. Relations between him and the Bilton children have not been built on the strongest foundations, since he was moved into the top job to take over after a brief and unhappy attempt by Percy's son, Donald, to run the business.

Sir Nigel is diving into a delicate situation with his takeover bid, but he is right to have spot-

ted the potential in the company. Some of the Bilton sites in the South East could be profitably redeveloped. Slough has the expertise to do that but it may have to fight for the privilege.

Sir Nigel could do worse than stick up on some grapes. He could be in for a protracted fight.

Power switches to the people

A new era is about to dawn in power supply. You haven't noticed? Don't worry, you are not alone.

From Monday, 750,000 homes in selected areas will be able to shop around for electricity. These people are in the vanguard of a mammoth programme to introduce competition to all 26 million domestic electricity consumers by next June, but don't seem to care very much.

A mere 10,000 of those homes will be switching supplier on day one — just 1.3 per cent of those eligible. True, more will come on stream later on in the process and, after such a poor start, things can only get better. But industry estimates suggest that when the market is fully open,

only 10 per cent will transfer. Competition enthusiasts will blame the industry for dooming themselves because it did not want to relinquish its cosy regional monopolies. However, the behaviour of gas customers would suggest otherwise. British Gas still has more than 80 per cent of the national market in spite of facing rivals throughout the country in a competition programme that began two years ago. And with gas the price cuts on offer far exceed those available in electricity.

Marketing enthusiasts will say that people will be wooed into switching because of service quality and additional services. But power is the ultimate commodity and its appeal is severely limited. At the end of the day the lights either come on or they don't.

Short hop to . . .

SHORT-HOP experts. British Regional Airlines, looked to be given a fair wind when Sir Michael Bishop launched it on to the stock market this year. But yesterday it made an emergency landing, reducing the fortune of the British Midland and Channel 4 boss by £9 million. Heaven knows, small airlines are risky investment, ask any former shareholder in the late Davies & Newman (DanAir's parent). Maybe Richard Branson would be wise to indefinitely postpone plans to ever float Virgin Atlantic.

British Regional shares dive as loss recorded

By MARTIN BARROW

SHARES in British Regional Air Lines Group nosedived yesterday after the company revealed that it had tumbled into the red in the first half and gave warning of difficult trading conditions in the second half.

The shares more than halved to 52½p from 108½p, and now trade at just 30 per cent of the peak of 163½p struck soon after the airline

was floated on the stock market just three months ago.

The airline was demerged from British Midland last year and yesterday's warning is an embarrassment for Sir Michael Bishop, who is chairman of both companies, and for Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank that advised on the flotation.

Shareholders have seen more than £73 million wiped

from the company's stock market value.

British Regional operates services on 86 routes, most of them under franchise for British Airways, and takes in Manx, the Isle of Man carrier.

In the six months to June 30 the company incurred a £487,000 loss which, it said, was better than expected at the time of the flotation and was attributable to start-up costs.

However, Sir Michael warned investors that, although passenger numbers were broadly in line with budget, overall yields were lower than anticipated, a pattern that

was likely to continue throughout the rest of the year.

In the first half British Regional carried 1.12 million passengers, an increase of 11.3 per cent over the first half of the previous year, but average occupancy fell to 60.6 per cent from 62.8 per cent. Revenues increased 21 per cent but aircraft standing costs and overheads rose by 23 per cent and 26 per cent respectively.

Sir Michael said the decline in the load factor was in line with expectations.

The loss per share was 1p (1p profit). There is no interim dividend.

Servisair slips after warning to market

SHARES of Servisair, the airport services company, fell to an all-time low yesterday after it gave warning that 1998 pre-tax profits would fall short of those earned in 1997 (Martin Barrow writes).

The company blamed the loss of an American Airlines contract and a fall in margins at Stansted airport. In addition, the company incurred losses in Sweden and has decided to cut short a service contract with Braathens, the Scandinavian airline.

Servisair shares, listed since

1995, fell 47p to 117p on the news that the company would fail to match last year's pre-tax profits of £6.97 million.

The company is holding the interim dividend at 1.75p a share. This is despite a rise in first-half profits to £957,000 from £102,000. The company ended the half year with net cash of £7.2 million.

John Willis, chairman, said: "We had a good start to the year, though the first half is not indicative of the full year."

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Sir Michael Bishop said that yields were lower than anticipated

Southampton plans hit by rivalry

By JASON NISSE

SOUTHAMPTON Leisure, owner of the football team rooted to the bottom of the Premier League with no points, said yesterday that it had no media companies knocking on its door and its plans to move to a £50 million new stadium were looking "sickly".

Rupert Lowe, the group's chairman, said that the project

to develop a sports and retail development at Stoneham on the outskirts of Southampton had been hit by rivalry between three local authorities.

Although Labour-controlled Southampton City Council is backing the plan, Liberal-controlled Eastleigh is opposed and Conservative-led Hampshire County Council is sitting on the fence.

Mr Lowe said the project

was "not dead yet but an extremely sickly patient". The company has written off the £697,000 it has spent on Stoneham so far and is looking at an alternative deal to build a £30 million 32,000-seat stadium at St Mary's in the centre of Southampton.

The team sold Kevin Davies, its young striker, for £7.25 million in the close season, but this came too late to have any

impact on the results for the year to May 31. These showed a loss of £803,000, £107,000 less than the loss last year, on turnover more than doubled to £14.7 million. The loss per share fell from 5.8p to 2.97p and there is a 1p dividend.

Southampton shares, which were 44p earlier this week, rose 6p to 57p yesterday.

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Blair TV

AND they call the BBC the Blair Broadcasting Corporation. Myppies at Cowaddens, headquarters of Scottish TV, tell me that Gordon Brown's brother, John, is about to be appointed to a very senior job there. The only sticking point is money.

John is head spin doctor for Glasgow Council and is reckoned to take home about £60,000. His new employer believes this to be a healthy whack in those parts. STV is, of course, owned by Scottish Media Group, which recently provided Labour with a new Scottish Industry Minister, its former chairman Gus Macdonald.

He is expected to get the job of news editor and current affairs editor. Reporting to him will be a chief news producer, Paul is a chief news producer, who started life as McKinney, who started life as a researcher for Gordon Brown and for Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary.

Should either man need to contact the Scottish Labour Party, they can ring his mouthpiece, Lorraine Davidson, who was STV Westminster correspondent. As was David

Whitten, now Dewar's own PR man.

And they still can't get ahead of the Scots Nats

THE gyrations of the Schroders share price yesterday will have been watched with particular interest by one secretary at the bank. The lady has been identified to me only by her first name, Doris, and she has been there for a quarter of a century.

For the past 20 years, or ever since she has been eligible, she has been buying shares under the employee share ownership plan, and the huge growth in the Schroders share price means she is now a very rich lady indeed — and need not work, except that she enjoys the job so. She takes the staff out to an annual lunch in Chinatown. But highly paid investment bankers have to pay their own way, I am told.

Game's up
AMONG the media moguls lining up to buy top football



teams is Barry Rubery, a founder of Pace Microtechnology, who left the satellite receiver company last year with £50 million from its flotation. A couple of years ago Rubery wanted to buy Leeds United, but I hear his ambitions are now more modest and he is after Huddersfield Town.

In the 1930s Huddersfield Town was the Manchester United of English football. Now in the lower reaches of the first division, it is best known for its impressive McAlpine Stadium. The joke in West Yorkshire is that Huddersfield gets bigger crowds from design schools than it does on a Saturday.

Wine wars

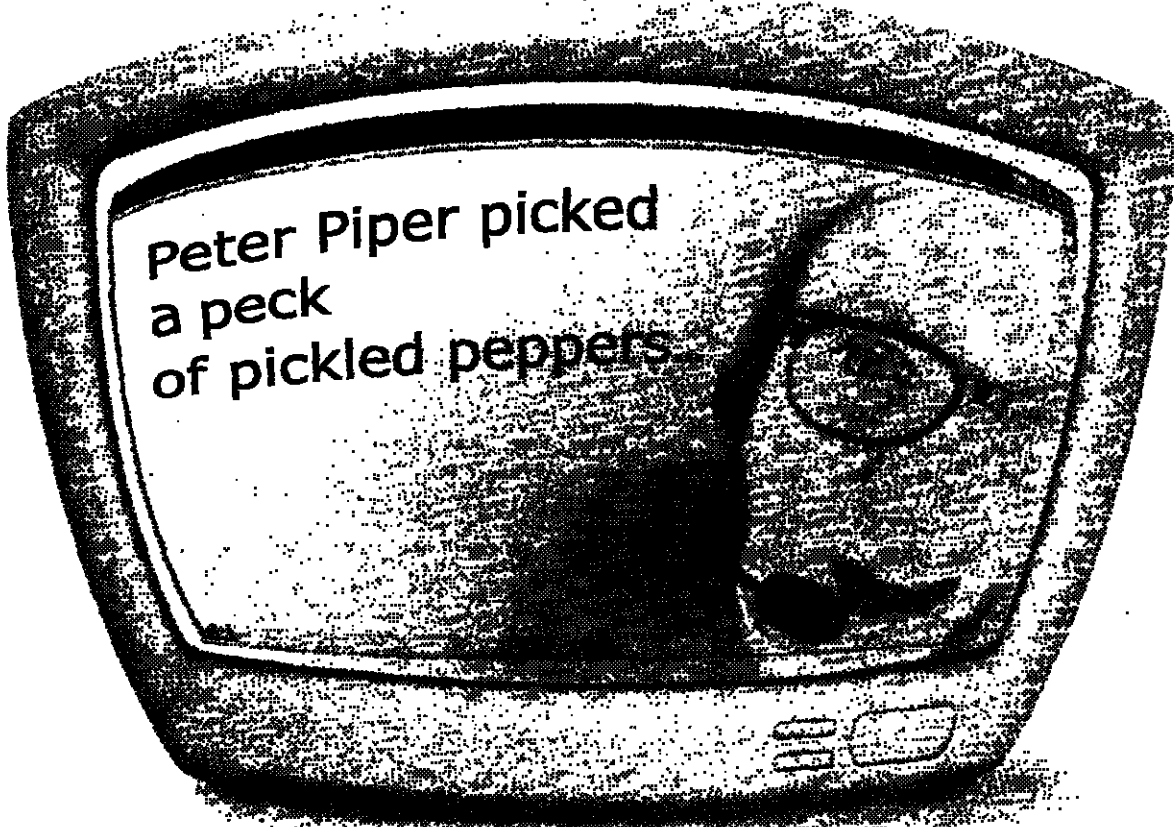
THE latest fashion among mega-rich French businessmen is buying up famous vineyards. Claude Bebear at Axa has a couple, Francois Pinault has Chateau Latour and Albert Frere, of Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux, has just snaffled Chateau Cheval Blanc.

Now Bernard Arnault and LVMH have gained control of one of the best yet, the Sauternes Chateau d'Yquem, described as "sex in a glass". A torrid legal dispute with the head of the family that owned it has just been settled in Arnault's favour, after a family feud which saw various relations siding with him.

Arnault has 55 per cent, having paid \$100 million. His opponent, Count Alexandre de Lur Saluces, is writing poetry denigrating the new owner and planning an appeal; locals mutter that all these business big-wigs are acting in cahoots.

And it is all the fault of Napoleon. His code required land to be split between siblings on the owner's death and made dissipation of family shareholdings in vineyards inevitable, so letting in the tycoons.

MARTIN WALLER



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The cat's whiskers: Sprite

Alasdair Murray says the going is still tough but there are signs of a pick-up

Hong Kong keeps its economic nerve

The September start to the horse-racing season is normally a time for celebration in gambling-mad Hong Kong. The city's two race courses, at Happy Valley and Sha Tin, are packed as the punters rush to place their bets after the short summer break.

This year, however, the Hong Kong Jockey Club is understandably worried that, in the midst of the city's worst recession for nearly 20 years, the locals will have lost their appetite for betting. Analysts are predicting that turnover could fall by 10 per cent, hitting not just the racing industry but the city's tax base. Betting receipts are the largest single contributor to the city's coffers, providing a tenth of all taxes.

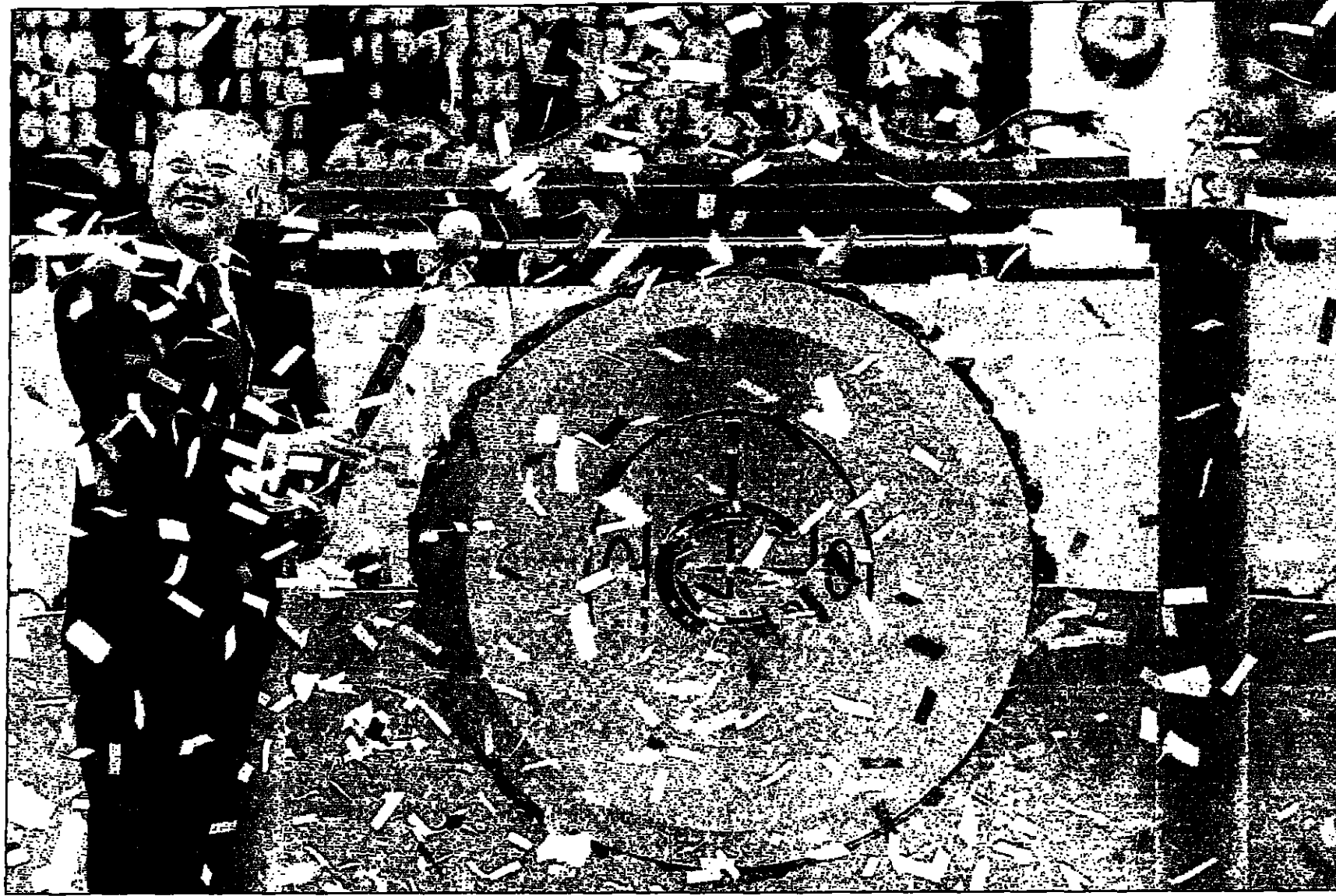
The Jockey Club was taking no chances. It hired top Cantonese pop star, Andy Lau, to perform the nostalgic sounding hit *The Good Days*. The club even made offerings of roasted pigs to the God of Wealth at the two courses in an effort to ensure the season got off to an auspicious beginning.

For the moment at least, the pigs do not appear to have died in vain. Punters spent some £7.2 million at the first meet — only marginally down from last year — while attendance was considerably higher despite the pouring rain. The gamblers' general attitude was that, when times are hard, a win on the horses can help to relieve the pain. Gambling, with its winners and losers, merely resembles the natural ups and downs of life, claimed more than one stoical punter.

Bad news has become a daily event in Hong Kong. The *South China Morning Post*, the respected English language daily, now provides a regular full-page round-up of the latest fallout from the crisis. Charities and helplines have been inundated by callers desperate for advice on how to cope with unemployment, negative equity or stock market losses.

Official statistics show the economy contracted by 5 per cent in the second quarter of the year. The Hong Kong Government is predicting a fall of 4 per cent across the full year but most economists believe this an underestimate. Unemployment has reached a 15-year high of 4.8 per cent and is expected to continue to rise towards a record 5.5 per cent by the year end. Unions say that most employees are accepting wage cuts of up to a third of their salaries, rather than risk becoming unemployed.

The city's problems are most apparent in Hong Kong's plush malls and crowded shopping streets. Many outlets appear to be holding perpetual sales with discounts reaching 70 per cent as retailers try to shift unwanted stock. Even in Pacific Place, the upmarket mall in Central Hong Kong frequented by rich Hong Kongers and wealthy overseas tourists, the signs of economic distress are widespread. While the branded designer shops — which are trying to push their new season ranges at full prices — lie empty, their mid-market neighbours are already offering healthy discounts on fresh autumn stock.



Hong gong: Tung Chee-hwa, marking the opening of the new racing season, has stuck to the formula that there can be no devaluation of the Hong Kong dollar

Latest statistics showed retail sales fell 16 per cent in June, an economic disaster in a city where consumer spending is 60 per cent of GDP. The major department stores have been even harder hit, unable to withstand the competition from smaller outlets more accustomed to working in a cut-throat market. Department store sales have dropped by 29 per cent with Japanese chains especially hard hit by the large decline in the number of Asian tourists visiting the city. Matsuzakaya became the latest Japanese firm to quit Hong Kong at the end of August after 23 years.

The city's other economic mainstay, property, has also been devastated. Property prices as a whole have dropped by more than 40 per cent in less than a year, while prices in the luxury residential end of the market have declined by as much as 60 per cent. Despite the premium on space in the Hong Kong territories, vacan-

cy signs are springing up. Property analysts believe it could take up to four years for the market to fully recover.

For much of the last year, the Hong Kong Government has resembled a rabbit caught in the headlights of a juggernaut — aware of the impending danger but apparently powerless to react. Tung Chee-hwa, Hong Kong Chief Executive, and Donald Tsang, the Financial Secretary, have stuck to the formula that there can be no devaluation of the Hong Kong dollar. The markets, however, have grown ever more sceptical as other currencies in the region have crumbled and even the once-mighty yen has dived. For most international traders it has become a question of not if the Hong Kong peg to the US dollar is removed but when.

For the bears, there has been an added incentive to attack the currency peg — even if it holds in the near term. A relatively

modest HK\$500 million attack on the currency dries up liquidity and automatically sends short-term interest rates soaring. The hike in interest rates hits banks and property companies, the main elements of the stock exchange, and sends the Hang Seng tumbling. The short sellers are in effect creating a vicious circle where each attack inflicts sufficient pain to make the next assault even more likely to succeed.

Reluctantly, the Hong Kong Government has started to fight back. It began to intervene in the market in the summer, mopping up some US\$15 billion of stock and in the process becoming the largest shareholder in the dual-listed HSBC. The intervention has been attacked for breaking free-market rules but was effective in the short term in propping up the stock market.

More decisively, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority moved last week to increase the amount of liquidity in the mone-

etary system, making a speculative attack much more difficult. Interest rates have become less volatile, raising the prospect that the risk premium placed on the overseas borrowing of the city's banks could soon decline. The Hang Seng has enjoyed one of its best weeks in months, surging more than 8 per cent before profit-taking and the Clinton factor took its toll.

It is far too early to talk about an end to the crisis, but there are tentative signs that Hong Kong could be "turning the corner". The number of tourists has begun to rise again. Sung Hai Kai, the upmarket property group, reported last week that sentiment in the market is beginning to improve and prices have stabilised. Vigers, the property consultant, said there were signs that the mass residential market is also picking up because prices have become "attractive".

There is even a glimmer of light in the re-

tail sector as shops adjust to the new conditions. Dickson Poon, the retail tycoon with a controlling stake in Harvey Nichols, revealed this week that his Hong Kong operation, Dickson Concepts, is planning to introduce stores selling off-season merchandise and name-brand items at bargain prices. The company is also looking for new prime sites for Plo/Ralph Lauren and Brooks Brothers stores. Mr Poon explained the logic of moving now, despite the difficult economic conditions. "With rental and operating overheads being reduced on a long-term basis, this expansion would also serve to pave the way for additional profits growth," he said.

The message from these companies is that, beneath the financial market turmoil, there remains a resilient economy that is capable of weathering the storm — unlike the corporate sectors of many of its near neighbours. The banking sector has suffered from the punitive level of rates but is not in imminent danger of collapse. Despite the property slump, the "delinquency" rate on residential mortgages remains barely a third of a per cent.

Nor have exports collapsed — despite the devaluations in neighbouring currencies. About 70 per cent of exports go to the US, EU and China, and there has been little evidence that this has declined. Exports to the rest of Asia have fallen but how much this has to do with the exchange rate and how much with the general decline in regional demand is not clear.

Kwok Cheung Kwok chief economist at Standard Chartered, believes that devaluation is not only unnecessary but could prove positively harmful by forcing another round of currency depreciations across Asia. Hong Kong no longer has a "sweet-shop" economy, based on cheap labour and a weak exchange rate but is driven by a high-value added service sector that still yields one of the highest profit per worker rates in the region. The city has inevitably been hurt by the regional crisis, and its own property bubble, but it is displaying a remarkable capacity for adjustment as prices and labour costs rapidly shift to take account of the new economic reality. It also has the firm political and financial support of China.

"Residential prices have fallen by about 50 per cent in the past year and the labour market has adjusted rapidly. That is not flexibility, then I don't know what is," Mr Kwok says, pointing to the fact that it took Japan seven years to achieve the same kind of changes. His attitudes resemble those of the stoical punters at the Hong Kong races. The city will have a ride out the painful adjustment process — but the recession will weed out those companies that have grown too fat and lay during the long years of expansion. Keep Hong Kong leaner and fitter in future.

On Wednesday: Can China remain aloof from the crisis?

Making of the ultimate mover and shaker

Victor Rice has been in a very hot seat for quite some time. Now he is packing it up and shipping it across to the US — again.

The merger of Lucas and Varsity was sealed exactly two years ago, sending Mr Rice back to England after more than a decade in North America. The Anglo-American car components maker chose head offices in London and seemed to revive the British automotive sector at a time when historic car brands such as Rover and Rolls-Royce passed into foreign hands.

But the results of the merger have not satisfied the City. This week Mr Rice shocked investors and employees alike with an announcement that he is seeking a New York Stock Exchange listing followed by a switch of head offices to New York.

Anyone who has watched the transatlantic career of the abrasive chief executive with a British and Canadian passport and an American green card can't have been surprised by the move. Clues litter his past.

The son of a chimney sweep from Essex left school at 16 and joined the Ford Motor Company to work in the mailroom. Today he paints a picture of his youth that suggests a lack of ambition. Class boundaries were still strong in postwar Britain and the young mailroom clerk had no greater wish than to become a purchasing clerk.

But his work for Ford fostered an interest in North America, the home of the car industry. Leaving Ford after seven years to work for Cummins and later Perkins, he reached the position of controller.

His awaking ambition eventually propelled him across the Atlantic in his thirties. Massey-Ferguson, the tractor manufacturer, called him to Canada.

Mr Rice's stint as chief executive of Massey-Ferguson is a controversial subject among his supporters and detractors. Peter Drucker, the management guru, praised his mettle in rescuing a failing company.



Victor Rice shocked investors and employees alike

He said: "He showed incredible vision and persistence to turn it around. Massey became a very different, very successful company. His greatest strengths were his ability to build a team and to listen and think things through before moving quickly."

Some 58,000 Canadian workers have a different view.

They paid with their jobs for the reduction of the \$2 billion debt mountain. Of 68,000 employees only 10,000 were left.

In his efforts to reshape the farm equipment maker Mr Rice sought the help of the Canadian State. He received an estimated \$200 million in loan guarantees and tax breaks.

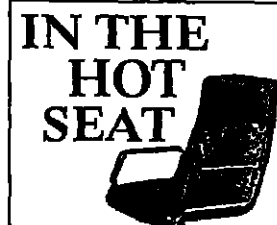
But this did not prevent him from turning his back on Canada soon afterwards. After a dispute, he moved the company's head offices from Toronto to Buffalo in New York State. Aggrieved LucasVarsity invest-

tors and employees will note the similarities.

Canadians became even more — and uncharacteristically — incensed when Massey-Ferguson's name was changed to Varsity Corporation. Massey was a national treasure. According to the company annals, Napoleon III ordered Massey tractors for his estate at the Paris Exposition in 1867.

Mr Rice has repeatedly and strenuously denied speculation about the origin of the new name. But it is hard not to notice that his initials are V. A. R. He also denies that he walked out on the Canadians, saying it was the only way to save the company.

The brusque attitude of American management was clearly an inspiration to Mr Rice. He is quoted as saying: "Unless you deliver, you will get punished."



IN THE HOT SEAT

CV: VICTOR RICE

Born: Hertfordshire 3 July 1941
Career: joined Ford in 1957, Cummins in 1964, Chrysler in 1968, Perkins in 1970.

Massey-Ferguson in 1975. Executive chairman of Varsity 1980-96. Chief executive of LucasVarsity since 1996.

OLIVER AUGUST

THE SUNDAY TIMES

NEWS REVIEW

Edward Heath: my feud with Thatcher. First extracts from the former PM's memoirs. Tomorrow

STYLE

Eva Herzigova — Thigh High. A change of emphasis for the Wonderbra girl

CULTURE

Steven Spielberg: exclusive interview examines the jaw-dropping horrors of Saving Private Ryan

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Stock Market Writer of the Year

FTSE fights way back from below 5,000 level

The London stock market clawed its way back from the brink after briefly dropping below the important 5,000 level. Down almost 150 points at one stage, the FTSE 100 index drew support from buyers in a falling market and encouragement from an opening rally on Wall Street. In the event, it reduced the deficit on the day to just 18.0 at 5,118.6, a loss of the week of 48.4 points. The index now stands 16.9 points below the level at which it started 1998 which was accounted for by James Capel's decision to reduce its year-end forecast from 6,200 to 5,400.



Larry Pollard, left, and Simon Gifford saw Tate & Lyle drop

Yesterday's early mark-down was prompted by two overnight losses on Wall Street and in the Far East. Dealers say the problems of the emerging markets such as Russia, Latin America and Asia have created classic bear market conditions. There was certainly evidence of bargain-hunters picking up stock as the market went into freefall. Conversely, they became sellers on the first sign of a rally. A total of 932 million shares had changed hands by the close of business last night, but brokers are warning of further volatility.

Tate & Lyle, whose chief executive is Larry Pollard and finance director Simon Gifford, retreated 7p to 400p amid fears of a bear raid on the shares. One investor who specialises in selling shares short is said to have targeted the sugar producer. Allied Zurich was at last able to apply the brake and halt this week's slide in the

Group to the top 100 companies has not impressed everyone. Credit Suisse First Boston, the broker, is not a fan of the information and technology supplier and has reiterated its "sell" recommendation for the shares, down 65p at 515p, claiming they are overvalued. United Biscuits continued to build on the support offered

Hard-pressed market-makers were feeling the squeeze as Pearson, owner of the Financial Times and Penguin publishing, saw another burst of institutional support to close up 60p at £10.50. Traders say much of the rise was because of a large buyer catching the market short of stock.

shares after completion of BAT Industries. The price rallied 8 1/2p to 655p, but is still down 160 1/2p on the week. By contrast, BAT put on 2 1/2p at 454p. Also in the tobacco sector Imperial Group climbed 17p to 535p after James Capel, the broker, raised its recommendation for the shares from "hold" to "buy". It is impressed with the group's strong cashflow and yield. The elevation of Sema

for Bilton, up 8 1/2p to 293 1/2p. Terms are worth 300p a share, valuing the entire group at £264 million. The move raised hopes that the Bilton acquisition is the first in a series of takeovers in the property sector. British Land advanced 1 1/2p to 570p. Capital Shopping 2 1/2p to 380p. Derwent Valley 9 1/2p to 416p. Hammerson 6 1/2p to 404p, and Helical Bar 10p to 542 1/2p.

STG Group edged ahead 5 1/2p to 183p as Cooper Industries of the US pondered the possibility of raising its terms. On Thursday, Wassall raised the temperature by launching a counter-bid worth 175p, valuing TIG at £31 million, £30 million above Cooper's original offer.

Gardiner Group rose 7p, or 46 per cent, to 21p after announcing it was in bid talks. At these levels, the group carries a price tag of £22.5 million.

Amber Industrial stood out with a rise of 4 1/2p, or 55 per cent, to 81p, after news of a minority bid from Caledonia Investments. Caledonia, which already owns 75 per cent of the shares, is offering 130p a share, valuing the entire company at £20.6 million.

A prolonged bout of turbulence left Servisair nursing a loss of 47p at 117p. The loss of a big contract with American Airlines, losses in Sweden and a contraction of margins at Stansted airport will take a toll of profits in the second half, warns the group. GILT-EDGED: Bond prices saw an early mark-up but failed to maintain their momentum in the wake of the strong gains already enjoyed this week. In the event, prices closed with small losses on the day.

MAJOR INDICES

Table with columns: Index Name, Value, Change. Includes New York (Dow Jones, Nikkei), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London (FT 30, FTSE 100, FTSE 250, etc.), and various international indices.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent stock issues with columns: Company Name, Price, Change. Includes Allied Zurich, Chaucer A Wts, Coca-Cola, etc.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Table listing rights issues with columns: Company Name, Price, Change. Includes Cammell Ltd n/p (530).

MAJOR CHANGES

Table listing major stock price changes with columns: Company Name, Price, Change. Includes BTR, Chelsea Village, Liberty, etc.

TEMPUS

Banking on independence

SCHROEDER'S fall from grace has been as dramatic as it has been quick. Shares in the merchant bank have virtually halved since hitting a peak of £10.99 in April and their descent shows no sign of slowing. The directors must be wondering whether they will ever see such heights again.

Much of the tumble in the share price reflects widespread fears about Schroder's exposure to Asia, disclosed yesterday as £375.1 million excluding Japan, against an asset base of more than £14 billion. But the stock has also been dragged down by concerns that the world's economy is teetering on the brink of recession - and that banks are first in the firing line.

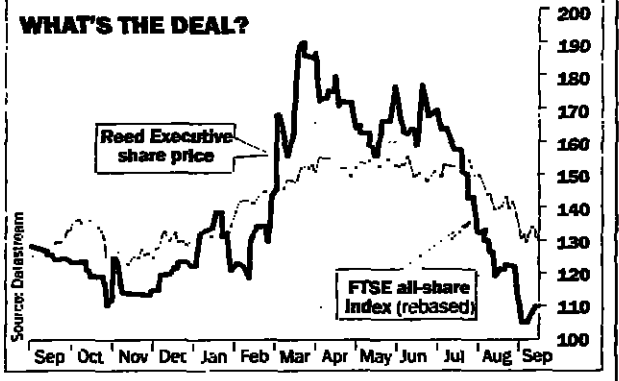
Inevitably, the steep fall in Schroder's share price has rekindled speculation whether one of Britain's few remaining independent, quoted merchant banks is vulnerable to a takeover. Asked whether the bank has received any approaches, Peter Sedgwick, deputy chairman, side-steps the question by reaffirming the management's commitment to its independence.

Reed Executive

SHARES in recruitment companies always take a hammering when the economy looks as though it is about to slow down. Reed Executive is no exception, and its shares have lost nearly 40 per cent of their value since their high of 191p in March, and closed yesterday at a lowly 113 1/2p.

The question now is whether they look undervalued. With the company's forecast earnings per share for the end of the year standing at just 22.6p, the stock is currently trading on a humble multiple of five. There are many reasons, however, why this rating is justified. Perhaps the most important is the economy, which is already showing signs of a slowdown into next year. Even if it does not tip over into full-blown recession, Reed will suffer. The risk of owning shares in Reed can be demonstrated simply by looking at their erratic performance over the past five years.

investment in information technology - which can automate much of the recruitment procedure - and its success so far in winning contracts to carry out the Government's New Deal programme. But given the historical instability of the shares, and the recruitment sector, they should be avoided.



Servisair

WHENEVER there is consolidation in an industry there are winners and there are losers. In the airline industry the implications of being on the losing side are particularly acute. The industry is undergoing extensive change with big airlines pooling resources to achieve significant cost savings.

The victims are the service companies, who must accept greatly reduced profit margins on contracts to stand a chance of remaining in the game. Servisair has learnt this to its cost, losing an American Airlines cargo contract and suffering a severe erosion in margins at Stansted, where discount airlines are fighting a vicious price war for market share.

Servisair is no minnow but it lacks the size of many of its multinational rivals to be able to take genuine advantage of economies of scale. Thus, when a contract goes west the impact is felt across the company. Yesterday's severe share price markdown, from 164p to 117p, reflects the City's understanding that Servisair is in no position to achieve a quick turnaround. Despite the apparent resilience of first-half profits, the maintained interim dividend and the warning that full-year profits will fail to match last year's profits indicate that the next few months will test the faith of investors.

Southampton

SHOULD any media mogul want a truly pointless investment, there is of course Southampton Leisure. Literally pointless, that is. The Premiership club the company owns has a perfect record of four games, four defeats so far this season. Given

its traditions of being a relegation candidate for more than a decade, there are fears that this sleeping giant of the South Coast might just be hauled below the water line and slipping quietly towards the Nationwide league.

The Nation desperately needs a new stadium, but faces a chicken and egg situation of not wanting to divert the money from the fight to stay in the top flight to building an alternative to the capacity challenged Dell. But if it does not increase its income, it is bound to lose the battle to stay up one season soon. This dilemma is not helped by a share price which, notwithstanding this week's rally, looks about as healthy as the team's league position.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including COCOA, ROBUSTA COFFEE, WHITE SUGAR, MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION.

ICIS-LOR (London 60bps)

Table of ICIS-LOR prices for Brent Physical, Brent 15 day (Nov), W Texas Intermediate, etc.

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

Table of GNI London Grain Futures for WHEAT, BARLEY, POTATO, RUBBER, etc.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London Financial Futures for Long Gilt, German Govt Bond, Five Year Gilt, etc.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table of European Money Deposits for various currencies and terms.

DOLLAR RATES

Table of Dollar Rates for various countries including Australia, Canada, France, etc.

OTHER STERLING

Table of Other Sterling rates for Argentina, Bahrain, China, etc.

WALL STREET

Table of Wall Street stock prices for various companies like AMD, AT&T, etc.

LIFE OPTIONS

Table of Life Options for various contracts and dates.

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Table of London Metal Exchange prices for Copper, Lead, Tin, etc.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of Sterling Spot and Forward Rates for various currencies.

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Table of Gold and Precious Metals prices for Bullion, Platinum, etc.

FTSE 100

Table of FTSE 100 stock prices for various companies.

FTSE 100

Table of FTSE 100 stock prices for various companies.

FTSE 100

Table of FTSE 100 stock prices for various companies.

FTSE 100

Table of FTSE 100 stock prices for various companies.

Large advertisement for CKUP FE 20 and other products, including a '100 100' logo.

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Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund name, with columns for bid, offer, and other financial metrics.

WITHDRAWN advertisement featuring a large 'X' over the word 'WITHDRAWN' and contact information for WCLTE TRW.

Large advertisement on the right side of the page, including the text 'When Reverses its own', 'Not', and 'We are saving', along with a large number '608'.



ASSESSORS ASSESSED 63

When the Inland Revenue broke its own rules

WEEKEND MONEY

INVESTORS DIVIDED 61

As the market falls is cash a better option?



Not quite taking the soft option

Investors who have done well out of the stock market in the 1990s have watched in horror as shares have nosedived in recent weeks.

With some gloomy pundits predicting further savage falls as we enter a 1930s-style Depression, many scared investors are now wondering whether they should pull out of the stock market altogether.

However, such a drastic step is unlikely to be worthwhile as shares nearly always provide the best long-term financial returns.

Besides, timing your exit and re-entry is notoriously difficult according to market experts. This means investors who flee when times are rough almost always fail to return in time when the market recovers. All too often they end up making the most basic investment mistake of all — selling at the bottom of the market when shares are cheap and buying at the top when they have become expensive again.

Fortunately, for investors who are perplexed by the should-I-stay-or-should-I-go? dilemma, there is a form of insurance that will allow them to stay invested while protecting them against further slides in the market.

Investors who are worried about how their shares may perform in the future can lock in some of the gains they have already made by buying so-called equity options.

Hundreds of millions of pounds worth of equity options are traded each year at the London International Futures and Options Exchange (Liffe) by investors seeking to defend their holdings. Liffe is now hoping to extend the options habit to many more private investors. However, newcomers need to take great care as reckless buying of options can lose you more money than you can ever hope to save.

Very simply, an option is a financial instrument that gives its holder the right, but not the

As fears of a global depression grow, investors are looking around for ways to mitigate their losses. Gavin Lumsden explains the use of put and call options

obligation, to buy or sell something at a fixed (strike) price at some point in the future (usually in three months' time).

Equity options fall into two basic categories: call options which give investors the right to buy shares at a fixed price in the future and put options which confer the right to sell shares at an agreed price in the future. Each option contract covers 1,000 shares and can be bought from a broker who will charge around 2 per cent dealing commission.

Investors can currently buy options on 75 blue chip shares as well as the FTSE 100 index.

Liffe is planning to expand the range when it abandons its traditional "open-cry" trading and moves to electronic trading in November.

With stock markets so unstable, put options have been much in demand recently as investors have sought to set a limit to their losses.

For example, shareholders in Lloyds TSB, who have seen their shares drop from over £8.00 to £6.90, could buy a put option that would enable them to sell the share at £6.50 in December. Useful protection if the share price continues to slide, less useful if it rises.

In this respect, buying an option is no different from taking out insurance on your home or car. If something bad happens you will be glad of the cover. If nothing occurs the premium has simply been the price for your peace of mind.

Many investors take fright when they learn options are part of a complex group of financial instruments known as derivatives. These have inspired fear and loathing among investors since 1995 when Nick Leeson broke Barings Bank with his wild betting on the Japanese stock market.

However, options are funda-



We have not quite reached the point of food riots as happened in the 1930s Depression, but today's investors are worried

mentally different from the futures used by Mr Leeson. Futures are far more risky than options because they oblige investors to stick to their deal no matter what happens in the market. By contrast, if the market turns against option holders, they can simply decide not to buy or sell the shares. Nick Bramley of Liffe says: "The most they can lose is their premium, the price of the option."

In addition to being a good form of insurance, Mr Bramley says there are two other reasons investors should consider options. Because they are always cheaper than the shares they are linked to, typically about 5 per cent of a share's value, they can be an efficient way of gaining exposure to market growth.

For example, if you think shares in Lloyds TSB will rise, you could buy a call option to buy them at £8.00. If they rise further you have a bargain. If they do not you simply avoid the scramble.

Call options are also a good

way of generating income on your share portfolio. For example, the Lloyds TSB investor with a £6.90 share might have ruled out the chance of a recovery in the next few months. However, he could still make some money by selling a call option to another investor who wanted the chance to buy the share in the future. If the first investor is right and the shares go nowhere he still makes a 5 per cent profit. If wrong, he makes 110p as the shares reach £8.00 but loses any gain over this.

Unfortunately, as with all forms of insurance, equity options become more expensive just when the need for their protection is greatest. Options offer protection against sudden falls and rises in share prices. With stock markets more volatile now than ever before, there has been plenty to protect against and the price of options has rocketed.

For example, three months ago, with the FTSE 100 near 6,000, it would have cost an in-

vestor with £1,000 invested in the market's leading index just £25 to buy a put option enabling him to sell at 5,000. With the FTSE 100 now a lot nearer 5,000 after the recent market falls, that option has obviously become a lot more valuable. Today it could cost the same investor £100. Similarly, options on BT shares have doubled while those for HSBC, the bank group hit by the Asian crisis, have soared 13 times.

Recently the escalating expense of options has forced Legal & General and Royal SunAlliance to withdraw "protected" funds that aim to minimise investors' losses.

All this might seem a bit depressing given the current woes of the market. However, investors can take heart from the fact that with options, as with all assets, the early bird can get the juiciest worms. Options bought at the right time can rise greatly in value which is why 95 per cent of them are sold before their expiry date.

Three main things dictate

an option's price: the price of the share, the time to expiry and volatility in the market.

For example, if the share price exceeds a call option's strike price by 20p the option will have an intrinsic value of 20p. This is because the option gives investors the right to buy the share at a 20p discount. It follows from this that a put option, which gives the right to sell the share, will only have an intrinsic value of 20p if the share price is below the option's strike price.

The longer the option has to go before it expires, the greater its time value will be. This is because there will be more time for the share price to move in the right direction and for the option to be exercised. This could add 10p-20p to the above example. As we have already seen stock market turbulence will push the option price up further.

Liffe is holding a series of seminars starting in Leeds today. For more information ring 0171 379 2087.

Sleeping easy while world markets fall

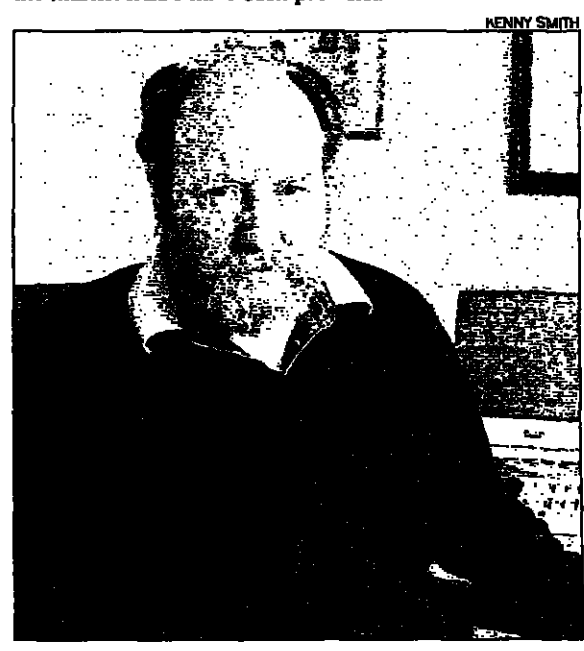
Ian Campbell, 60, a former Unilever manager from Piltchery, Perthshire, is a good example of how cautious investors with large portfolios can take advantage of options.

Mr Campbell, pictured below, first dipped his toe into options waters three years ago when he realised they were an efficient use of his money. He particularly liked the fact that he could buy a call option — which gave him the right to buy a share at a fixed price in the future — at a fraction of the real cost of the share. If the strike price turned out to be good value he would exercise the option and buy the shares. In the meantime he could put his money on deposit where it could earn interest. If he decided not to buy the shares the interest would partly compensate for the cost of the option. If he did exercise the option it was a welcome bonus in addition to getting cheap shares.

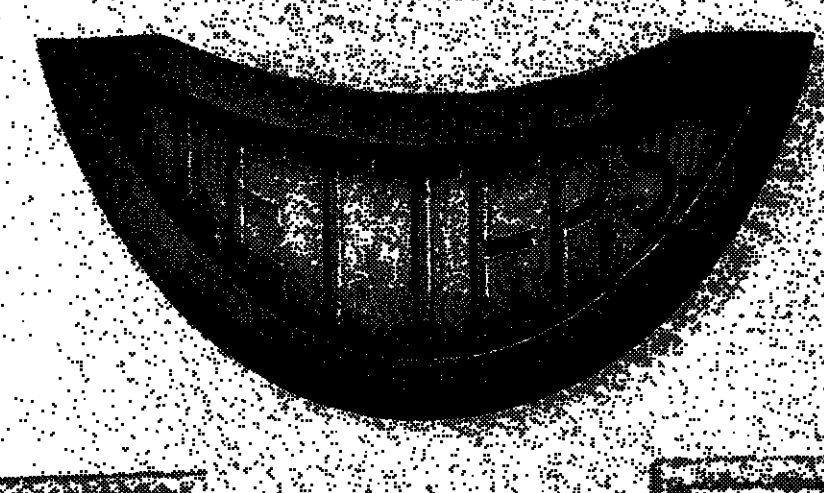
Mr Campbell, who plans to live off his portfolio of 30, mostly blue chip, shares when he retires, soon woke up to the protection that equity options can offer. His next step was to start writing call options on shares he did not expect to do well in the next few months.

He now works part time as a commodities consultant advising confectioners on which crops to buy, and admits he has made mistakes which have cost him money, but insists he is not a speculator.

"I really am quite a cautious investor. If I had done nothing I expect my portfolio would have been higher. On the other hand I have been able to sleep at night aware that if the market falls I have been protected."



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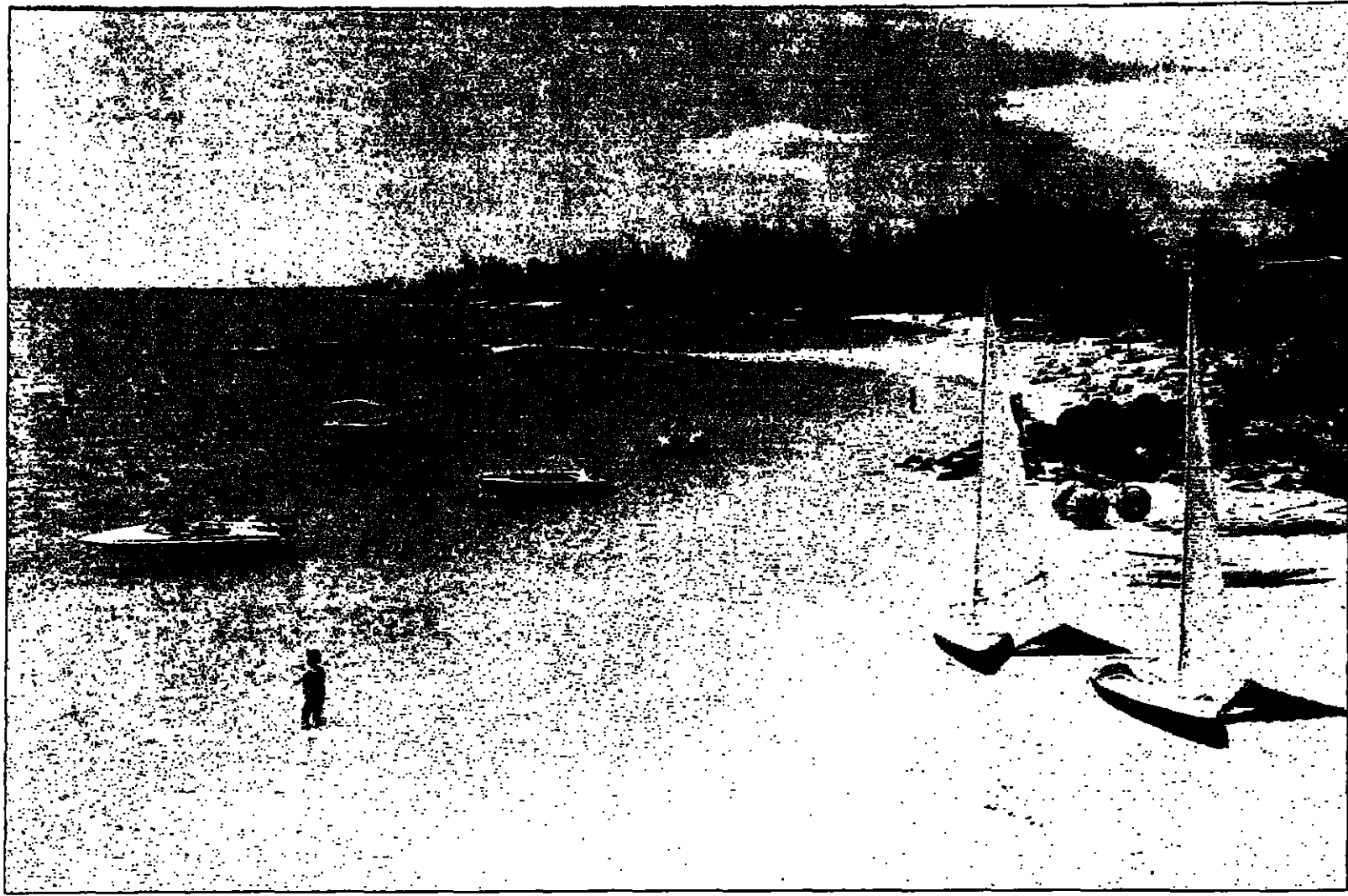
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Sun, sand, and a record stock market

A year ago, if you had packed your bags and sat on the beach in Mauritius, you could have seen your investments shoot up. The dream holiday destination is one of just four stock markets across the world that have hit record highs as the rest have plummeted.

Share prices on Mauritius's fledgling exchange are up by 25 per cent this year, boosted by rapidly expanding tourism and the growth of the island as an offshore banking centre for Africa.

Even after soaring ahead, the stock market is on a relatively low "price/earnings" ratio of just 11 compared with the 25-plus figure for most Western stock markets.

The island's boom gives some comfort to emerging markets specialist Orbitex Investments, which runs a Russia/Eastern Europe fund as well as an Africa fund.

Chief investment officer Robin Geffen admits the last few weeks have been "hellish" but still keeps faith with the emerging markets story.

"Even when markets are crashing, a globally diversified portfolio of emerging market shares can reduce risk."

The Middle East and Africa index is down 24.9 per cent this year, but strip out Egypt and South Africa and the picture looks a good deal better," he said.

Mauritius shares its crisis protection factor 20 with Ivory Coast, Botswana and, surprisingly, former Yugoslavian republic Slovenia, as the only markets still up when compared on a year-on-year basis.

"The secret is the level of foreign ownership. These markets on average have less than 2 per cent of their shares owned abroad so they are insulated from the likes of Soros and the big hedge funds," said Mr Geffen.

But it could be many years before these markets are a realistic proposition for small investors. Investor protection is in its infancy, market volatility is high and political risk levels are unacceptable for most investors.

PATRICK COLLINSON

Past performance is not a guide to the future. The value of investments and any income from them can go down as well as up. Tax concessions are not guaranteed, their value will depend on individual circumstances. A dilution levy may be applied by the Investment Fund if required for the purpose of investor protection. It will not be possible to continue investment in a PEP after April 1999 when the Government will introduce Individual Savings Accounts (ISAs). Threadneedle Investment Services Limited, Authorized Corporate Director and Unit Trust Manager. Threadneedle Portfolio Services Limited, PEP Manager. Regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. Members of the Allied Dunbar and Threadneedle marketing group.

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*Source: Mirostat. Offer to bid (current charges), gross income reinvested. Performance of PEP qualifying funds in the European Equity Growth Sector to 1/9/98. The index is the Mirostat FT S&P World Europe - excluding UK.
† Rating by Standard & Poor's Fund Research

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Threadneedle investments

Malaise grips the emerging economies

Caroline Merrell on the problems facing investors in fledgling markets

The myth of the Malaysian economic miracle was finally entirely exploded earlier this month when the Government, under the eccentric leadership of Mahathir Mohamad, announced capital controls in a bid to reflate the burnt-out economy.

The stock market immediately reacted with a 60 per cent rise, but UK investors with funds that hold stock in the region will not be able to benefit from the increase because at the moment it is impossible to exchange assets denominated in the local currency, the ringgit, into sterling. The currency controls could be in force for as long as 12 months, which leaves UK investors holding funds where a proportion of the stock is effectively illiquid.

Many fund managers with trusts in the region immediately suspended trading in any funds that had more than 5 per cent in Malaysia. The fund managers that acted included Fidelity, Barings and HSBC. Trusts where the proportion of Malaysian investment was less than 5 per cent continued trading. Fund managers took the view that the cash levels within the trusts were enough to counteract the illiquidity of the investments.

However, investment managers are concerned that the funds with any exposure to Malaysia will have to be re-priced to reflect the value of the assets. The Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro), the watchdog, this week met fund managers to find "a common way forward" over pricing.

The crisis afflicting Malaysia is the most extreme example of the malaise affecting most of the emerging markets of the world. Currency devaluations in Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and more recently Russia have had a catastrophic effect on the values of many Far Eastern and emerging markets funds.

Any investor who put money in such a trust will now be looking at huge losses. Many commentators believe some markets are in such a state that it will take them between five and 10 years to recover. Others believe that there is still some value in the emerging markets closer to home, like Greece and Israel.

For instance, over a three-month time period, the aver-



Some emerging markets may take ten years to recover

age global emerging market fund has fallen by 35 per cent, while the worst affected fund was the Framlington Emerging Markets fund, which has fallen by more than 40 per cent. The longer-term figures are equally as poor. Emerging market unit trusts, on average, have fallen by 36 per cent over a five-year period.

In the investment trust sector, the falls have been even more catastrophic, as many of the trusts are linked to a single emerging market. On average, over a three-month period, emerging market investment trusts have fallen by 42 per cent, while over five years, the value of the trusts has fallen by on average 51 per cent.

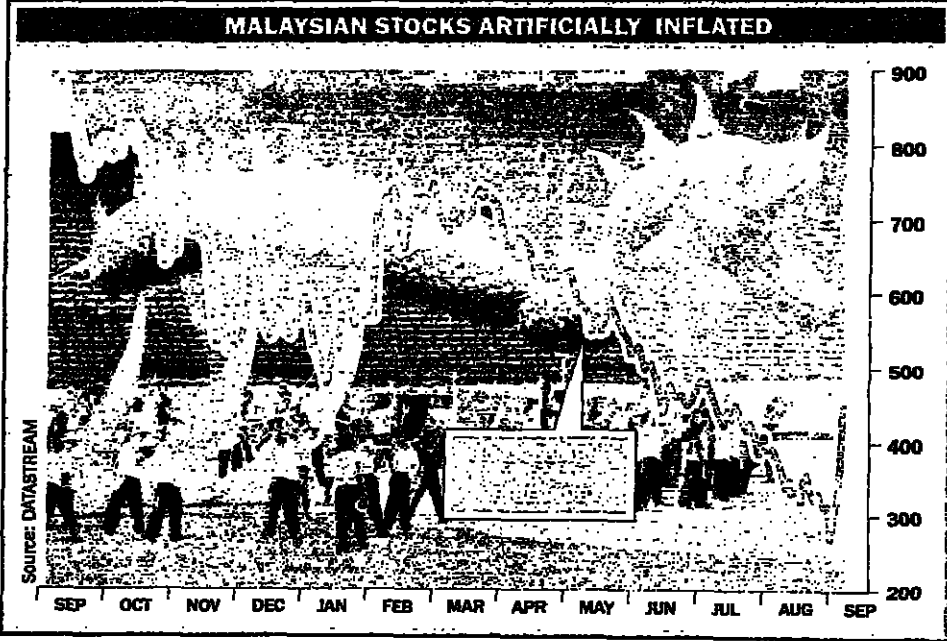
Even the funds run by Mark Mobius, the emerging market guru from Templeton Investment Management have suffered large falls. For example, over three months the Templeton Emerging Markets fund has fallen by 41 per cent, while over five years it has fallen by just 39 per cent.

Emerging market fund managers are divided on the future prospects for the markets. Many believe that in some countries the situation could get worse before it gets better. Nancy Curtain, from Barings, divides the markets into the

good, the bad and the ugly. The former are those countries that are prepared to instigate tough economic measures to try to counteract recession. "The virtuous are those that are prepared to raise interest rates to rein in domestic demand," South Africa, Mexico, India, Greece and Argentina are among those countries.

Ms Curtain said: "These changes are not equity friendly, they are in fact bond friendly." The bad markets she considers are those of Brazil and Hong Kong, where Government's have intervened to maintain economic or market stability, while the truly ugly markets she considers are Malaysia and Russia. Of the former she said: "What the Government is doing in introducing capital controls makes absolutely no sense."

Chris Palmer, a manager at Gartmore, warned against anyone investing in the bombed-out markets of Asia and the Far East, in the assumption that things could get no worse. He said: "It really depends on investors' attitude to risk. It has got to be a long-term proposition." He believes there are a few investment opportunities among the carnage. Greece is where he believes there could be some good returns, other markets he favours include Taiwan and Korea.



*Source: Standard & Poor's Mirostat, UK Gilt sector, offer to bid, net income reinvested to 1/9/98. The price of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up, you may not get back as much as you invest. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. M&G do not offer advice or make any recommendations regarding investment - we only promote the packaged products and services of the M&G marketing group. Issued by M&G Securities Limited (Regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority). Registered Address: 3 Minster Court, Great Tower Street, London EC3R 7XH. Registered No: 90776.

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سكزا من الأصل



Don't be slow out of the blocks — there are just eighteen days left to get your return form back if you want the Inland Revenue to calculate your tax bill

Don't be beaten by tax

Sarah Williams explains the best way to tackle your self-assessment forms

Filling in your tax return can be confusing even when everything goes smoothly. But problems escalate when the information you get from the Inland Revenue is misleading. Hector has been filling our small screens telling us all to get our tax returns sent in within the next four weeks if we want the Revenue to work out our tax bills for us. If you don't the job lands fairly and squarely in your lap, or in your bank account if you are going to pay an adviser to do it for you.

It seems a simple straightforward message from the tax people, doesn't it? The trouble is that it is not precise enough. You have to get your tax return in by September 30 if you want to be certain that your tax bill will be worked out for you in time for you to pay it on January 31.

So saying "four weeks" is wrong. It is either encouraging you to send in your tax return earlier than is required. Or, worse still, it means you might miss the date, given that the advertisement has been running on the television after September 2 (four weeks before the deadline).

The Inland Revenue says in its defence that while he is speaking Hector holds up a sign that says September 30. The Revenue also says that television advertisements are booked on a weekly slot, so September 6 was the last day it was seen. Despite the confusion, you still have to meet the September 30

deadline if you want to guarantee that your tax bill will be worked out for you.

If your form arrives in the first couple of days of October your tax office will still do its best to work it out for you without incurring a penalty.

You will really have to get moving if you want to meet the real deadline. While it shouldn't take long to fill in the form, it may take quite a lot longer to get all the documents you need.

Your first step is to check what forms you have received from the Inland Revenue. You should have the basic eight-page booklet entitled Tax Return. You will probably also have received a *Tax Calculation Guide*, but because you are going to return your form before September 30, you do not need to fill this in. There should also be a big booklet — the *Tax Return Guide* — which tells you how to fill in your form.

Enclosed with your Tax Return may be one or more supplementary forms. These cover particular cases such as for employees, for the self-employed, for capital gains and so on. In all, there are nine different possible extra forms. Check which of the supplementary forms you need. If you are missing any, call the orderline 0645 000 404 (between 8am to 10pm) to ask for what

you need. Next, chase up all your documents. Employees need to have forms P60 and possibly forms P11D, P9D and P45. Your employer should have given you your form P60 by May 31, and forms P11D or P9D by July 6. The P60 is a summary of what you were paid last tax year and how much tax has been deducted.

Taxable benefits and expenses should be entered on forms P11D or P9D. Which one you receive depends on how much you earn. If you left a job during the tax year you should have a P45. You may need to get that from your previous employer.

If you have received taxable benefits and expenses you should also have kept invoices or receipts to back up your claim for deductions for allowable expenses.

The self-employed should also have evidence to support the figures entered in the Tax Return. However, you do not need to attach your accounts to it. If your yearly sales are less than £15,000, you need to enter the amount of your sales and the amount of your expenses, plus the figure for profit. More sales than this and the information you have to enter will be much more detailed. If you have not yet worked out your busi-

ness figures, you and your accountant will need to act fast so that you can put in the accurate information.

If you have received any investment income, you may need to enclose further information. A simple building society or bank account will produce interest which should be declared, and you will need to get certificates of interest from the society or bank.

Any shares you hold may have paid you a dividend and you should have received a dividend voucher with it. That needs to be tracked down and sent in with your form. The same applies to unit trusts. The general rule is that any income you have received or expenses you wish to claim needs to be documented. And you have just 12 working days to get it all together.

Once you have all your documents you can settle down to filling in the forms. Allow yourself a couple of hours to do this. Start with your supplementary pages and then turn to your Tax Return. It would probably be sensible to send in the form before the deadline to allow for postal delays, and to pay extra for guaranteed delivery the next day.

□ *The first 30 readers to send their name and address to: The Times, Reader Offer, 58a Hatton Garden, London EC1N 8LX will receive a free copy of the book which normally retails for £7.99. Anyone who does not qualify for free copy will be offered the chance to buy it for £3.99 including post and packing.*

Penalised despite hitting the payment deadline



Paying your tax bill in time should mean that you avoid all self-assessment penalties, but one accountant has discovered that even those who pay promptly may still find themselves penalised.

Peter Saxton, from Southfields in South-west London, has been charged interest on his second payment of tax on account for 1997-98. He handed in his cheque at his tax office on the deadline date of July 31 and got a receipt. But he was later told the payment was late.

The amount involved is just 60p. But Mr Saxton sees the charge as typifying the "inefficiencies that are endemic in the system".

He also points out that the taxman is disobeying his own rules. A payment of tax has arrived on time if the cheque is in the hands of the Inland Revenue by the due date. There is no need to submit the payment early to give the cheque time to clear by the deadline, although Mr Saxton was rebuked by a Revenue employee for failing to do so. A Revenue spokeswoman conceded that if a payment was received on the deadline date, no interest on overdue tax should be charged. "Something has gone wrong in this case and we are looking into it," she said.

ANNE ASHWORTH

Financial experts have exploited a loophole in the last Budget to give investors a rare chance to sink some of their money into a potentially lucrative, but low-risk, property tax shelter.

St Mark Homes, a new five-year enterprise investment scheme set up by a firm of North London builders, is causing a stir among the financial cognoscenti.

This is because EISs, which offer investors generous tax reliefs, were banned in the last Budget from backing property development.

Chancellor Gordon Brown ruled that shareholders could only get the EIS benefits of 20 per cent income tax relief and the ability to defer capital gains tax if they backed genuinely risky start-up companies.

Property development schemes that built and ran nursing and residential homes were banned because investors could always fall back on the value of the property if the

Investors find a shelter for funds through St Mark

business failed. This asset backing greatly reduced their risk.

However, although the Budget made it impossible for property developers to set up EISs, it left the door wide open for builders.

Mizen, a homebuilder based in Wembley, is the driving force behind St Mark Homes, which has won provisional approval from the Inland Revenue.

St Mark Homes intends to subcontract itself to property companies wishing to develop homes in the South East. It believes it will be attractive to developers as, unusually, it will wait for payment until three

months after completion. In return, however, it will demand a 20 per cent margin over the cost of construction. Investors will share half of the profits with St Mark's management, although they will have priority over the first 4 per cent post-tax return on capital, equivalent to 20 per cent over five years.

Michael Chicken, a non-executive director of St Mark Homes and an employee of Neill Clerk Group, an EIS specialist, says projected house sales would have to fall by over 30 per cent before investors would be affected.

St Mark's surprise launch could prompt a flood of imitations, raising speculation of a repeat of the hugely successful business expansion schemes, the predecessors to EIS, which pumped up to £3 billion into residential property before they were banned in 1994.

However, experts say the Inland Revenue has new powers to amend tax rules as it goes along and will not let a boom in property-linked EIS schemes occur.

If you believe the property market will continue to grow St Mark does represent an interesting opportunity.

However, despite its possibly unique appeal investors should not rush into the scheme for the tax advantages alone and should take financial advice before proceeding. The minimum investment is £3,000.

For a copy of the prospectus on St Mark Homes ring: 0171 439 0145.

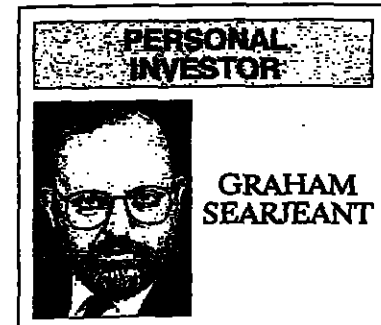
GAVIN LUMSDEN

Black nights at BTR

Safety is in the eye of the beholder. In the mid 1990s, many thousands of investors had their portfolios stuffed with shares in BTR. It was worth £12 billion at one time. It was highly profitable, with a philosophy of putting profit margins before all else. And it had an impressive record of making money for shareholders as it grew by ever bigger acquisitions of manufacturing groups. Advisers knew they could safely recommend the shares. Now BTR is valued at about £3.5 billion and sells on a dividend yield more than three times the market average.

Ian Strachan, chief executive for the past three years, reckons his plan to transform the conglomerate into a "focused" engineering group is ahead of schedule. One way plan both on time and money. One way plan both on time and money. One way plan both on time and money. One way plan both on time and money.

Like its rival Hanson, BTR found its progress barred by two underlying factors. The low-spend, margin-based approach depended on a diet of acquisitions, which had to be bigger each time to keep up momentum. It got harder and harder. And the bottom-line value of the acquisitions depended on some pretty fast accounting. Balance sheet provisions, fair values and extraordinary



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

items allowed management to fatter profits and count them in whichever year was most convenient. Reforms introduced by the Accounting Standards Board have stamped most of that out. The game was over.

Hanson realised that first, perhaps because it always had a dealing mentality and perhaps because its shares fell even more steeply than BTR's in the mid 1990s. The group was finally broken up in 1996, handing shares in component parts such as Imperial Tobacco and Eastern Group to shareholders.

Since then, the rump Hanson building materials group has picked up, showing good profit growth this week. Even Imperial has caught up with the index. Amazingly, tobacco stocks are valued higher than conglomerates, at least until the next legal shock.

BTR could not immediately follow the Hanson route, in part because it had not sold many businesses along the way and was such a mixed bag. Instead it has sold £6 billion of businesses and bought selectively in its chosen fields. Shrinking groups are rarely popular. Mr Strachan has had to pay the price of the past by putting more emphasis on sales growth. That has not really worked as one market after another has turned sour. Manufacturers are in trouble whether conglomerate or not. BTR shareholders would doubtless love a takeover or split. Barring that, the shares may have few friends until the world economy turns up again.



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Source: For performance figures Standard & Poor's Microcap Index to reflect net income reinvested to 31st August 1998. *1st means top quartile performance over five years in the individual benchmark & Power's Microcap sector in the case of UK Capital Growth and International Growth since launch on 1.10.96. Side will be introduced from 6th April 1999 for an initial ten year period. All Personal Equity Plans held at 30th April 1999 will be unable to accept further contributions, however they can continue to be held outside the PEP with the same tax advantages. A 10% tax credit on all dividend distributions may be reclaimed up to 30th April 2004. The value of current tax relief depends on individual circumstances. If you have any doubts about your tax position, you should seek professional advice. If you have any doubts whether this product is suitable for you and you wish to obtain personal advice, please contact an independent financial adviser. You must read the Terms and Conditions before investing. The value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount originally invested. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Emerging markets are volatile and can suffer from liquidity problems. Changes in rates of exchange between currencies may also cause the value of investments to decline or increase. Telephone calls may be recorded, stored and approved by Gartmore Investment Limited. Gartmore's authorised advisers are managed by Gartmore Fund Managers Limited. Both companies are regulated by the FSA and the Personal Investment Authority and are members of the National and Gartmore Marketing Group. Gartmore House, 10th Montague Street, London EC3R 8AA.

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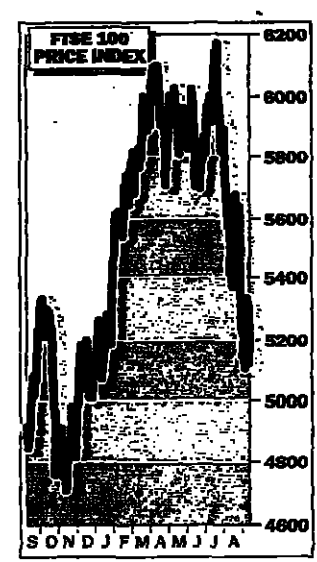
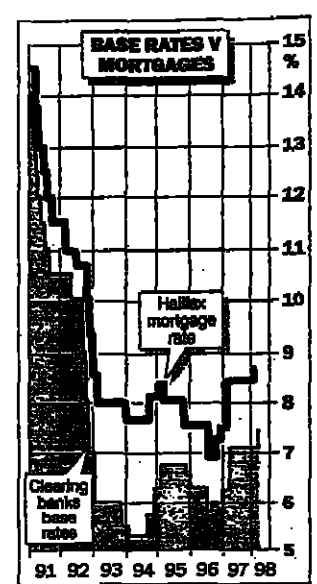
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L&G guide for career breaks

Practical guide for those who are considering taking a career break, either to raise a family or go travelling, has been produced by Legal & General. The guide looks at how to plan your pension to take account of a changing lifestyle and how to increase your contributions on your return to work.

THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Table with columns: Account, Notice of term, Deposit, Rate, Interest paid. Includes sections for INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS, NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS, CREDIT CARDS, PERSONAL LOANS, and FIXED RATE MORTGAGES.



NATIONAL SAVINGS

Table with columns: Gross At tax rates, Min/maximum investment, Notice, Contact. Lists various savings products like Ordinary A/c, Investment A/c, Income Bond, etc.

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£1000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance.

Table with columns: SINGLE LIFE (Male/Female), JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS. Lists annuity rates for various ages and genders.

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

Table with columns: Investment (£), Company, Standard rate (%). Lists various guaranteed income bond products and their rates.

FIXED RATE

Table with columns: Gross Coupon, Buying price, Gross yield, Issue price, Minimum purchase amount. Lists fixed rate mortgage products.

PERPETUAL SUBORDINATED BONDS

Table with columns: Gross Coupon, Buying price, Gross yield, Issue price, Minimum purchase amount. Lists perpetual subordinated bond products.

SMALLER INVESTMENTS

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate %, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Lists smaller investment products.

LARGER LOANS

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate %, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Lists larger loan products.

SMALLER INVESTMENTS

Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate %, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Lists smaller investment products.

LARGER INVESTMENTS

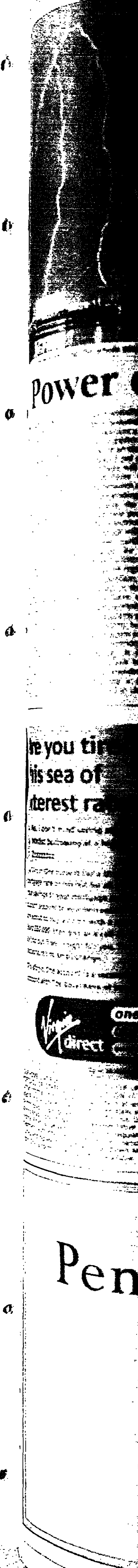
Table with columns: Lender, Interest rate %, Loan size, Max %, Notes. Lists larger investment products.

Table with columns: Buy, Sell, Bid, Offer, % Chg. Lists various financial products and their prices.

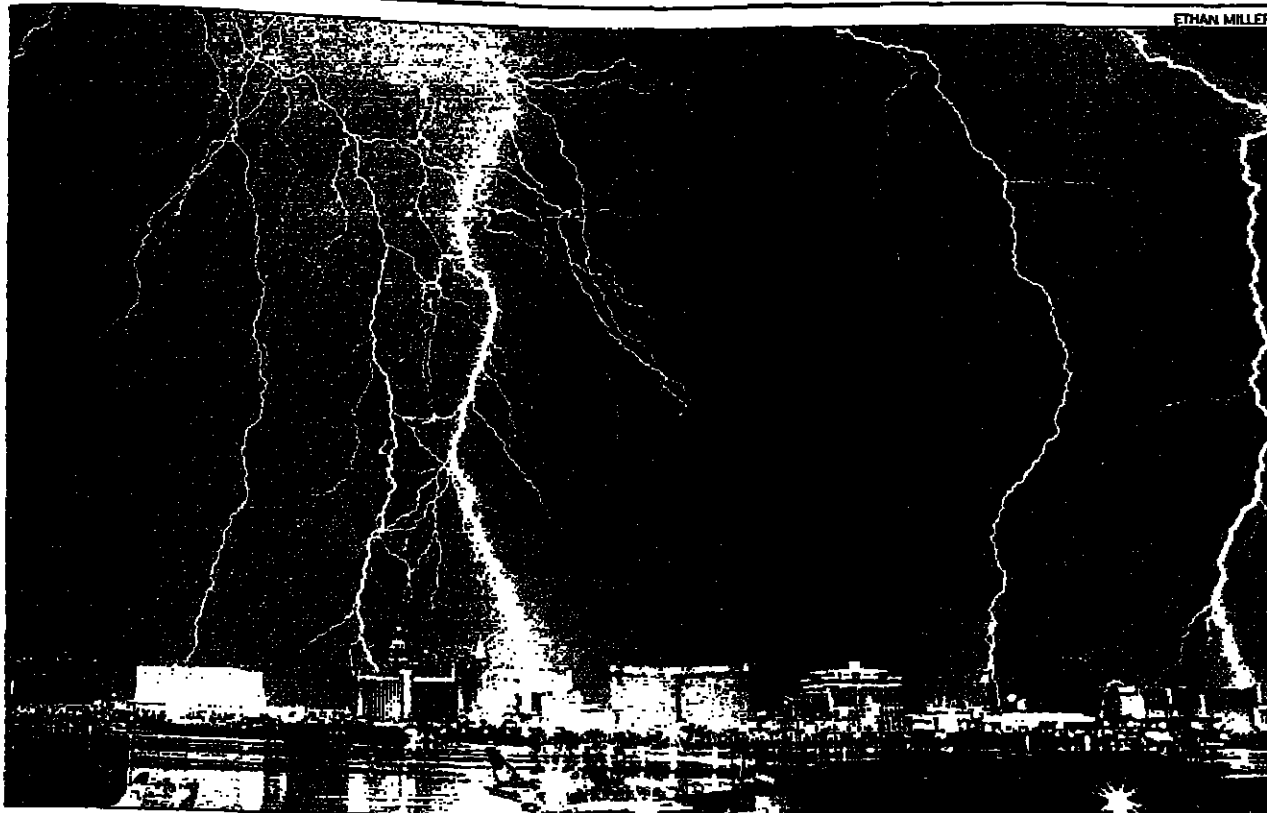
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طوكيو من الازهر



Sparks fly: from next June the whole country will be able to buy power from any supplier it likes — and save cash too

Power comes into play

From Monday, people living in Chester, Hull, Motherwell and Norwich will be given the chance to switch to a different electricity supplier. This is the first wave in the Government's process of de-regulation of the electricity industry, opening the market up to competition. All 26 million electricity consumers will have the opportunity to choose who supplies their power by next June.

Britain's 19 million gas users can already shop around for the best deal on gas bills, after completion of the two-year process of gas de-regulation on May 23 this year. More than three million people have switched from British Gas.

Households in the Man-Web, Yorkshire Electricity, Scottish Power and Eastern Electricity regions will be the first to be offered the savings that should come with de-regulation. But the 750,000 consumers that will take part in this initial phase cannot hope to be

substantially better off. Where as a customer could save up to 20 per cent a year by switching gas supplier, the likely reduction in an electricity bill will be about 5 per cent.

There will also be little price uniformity. Gas suppliers offer between one and three prices depending on where customers live, the amount they use and their previous supplier. In the electricity market, each supplier will be offering a different tariff and standing charge for each region in which it intends to operate. Until all 14 regions are opened to competition, consumers involved in this first phase will only have a choice of Man-Web, Yorkshire, Scottish Power, Eastern and British Gas.

Exactly how much you will save needs to be clarified when the electricity salesman comes calling. It is important that you check both the unit price and standing charge before making a decision. Also be careful to check what method

of payment the supplier is using when they quote the savings to be made and always compare like-for-like. So, if you are paying by direct debit with your existing electricity company, look at the tariffs for direct debit of other suppliers.

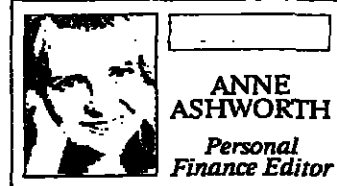
Additional savings could be made if you opt for one company to provide both gas and electricity to your home. For example, British Gas is offering an extra discount if you buy both fuels. It has already signed up 440,000 people for electricity.

Barclaycard has joined forces with Eastern Group to provide a service exclusively for its customers. Barclaycard members who switch to Eastern Group for their electricity and/or gas needs can pay their bills on a monthly basis on their credit card and pay less for light and heat. Barclaycard says a family in a three-bedroom house could save £140 a year.

However, be careful to do

Your account's in the oven

The marketing departments of the banks work hard to persuade us that we are benefiting from every hi-tech innovation. This week, for example, a microwave banking system was unveiled.



ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance Editor

Some time soon, we should be able to move money between accounts using the Internet screen on the front of a microwave oven. While we compare rates of interest and check our balances our supper will be sizzling inside. If depressed by the state of our finances, we will be able to forget our woes by switching to TV.

The news that such wizardry is possible is more bewildering than exciting. If banks are eager to offer such time saving devices, then why do they seem to care so little about the delays elsewhere in their operations?

Most bank customers have paused to wonder why it takes five or more days between the paying in of a cheque and its arrival at an account. How, in the age of Bill Gates, do we tolerate an arrangement that Charles Dickens would have thought slowish?

The banks use various arguments to justify these delays, some more convincing than others. Their excuses include the need to send cheques by post between centres, the investment in any other more contemporary method of transmission being prohibitively expensive. But there is always the suspi-

cion that the clearing status quo suits the banks, or they would long ago have made it more efficient.

This does not mean that the banks are unaware of our dissatisfaction. Barclays has now acted to forestall pressure for change by permitting its account holders to have instant access to funds before they have cleared. This is a welcome step which should force competitors to follow suit. But it is not an act of overwhelming generosity especially as there is a limit of just £1,000 on withdrawals. Barclays customers will only use the instant-access service if they are confident that a cheque will not bounce, because, if it does, they will bear the loss, not Barclays.

Those who have received a cheque from a less than creditworthy party will prefer to trust in the antiquated clearing system, rather than pay the charges levied on a latter day unauthorised overdraft.

Is cash king?

ONE question now preoccupies investors. Should they switch into cash or stay faithful to shares, despite the uncertain outlook?

The issue has been debated by the two investment clubs whose performance reports are Weekend Money's very own docu-soap. Members of the Victoria in Truro have concluded that they are running an investment club, not a building society and so will not dispose of their carefully chosen holdings. Maydown Mergers from Londonderry are taking a more cautious view.

Jayesh Manek from Ruislip, manager of the Manek trust, is gloomier still, having switched some 25 per cent of the portfolio into cash. Other managers take the view that it is their obligation to remain invested in the stock market.

Investors in all trusts may share Mr Manek's pessimism and wish that their managers would also "go liquid". But they should remember that these managers receive a handsome reward each year for their acumen and stock picking ability.

In difficult times, they must prove their worth and earn their fees by seeking out opportunities for their investors. This may be the time to ask your managers what they are doing to show why they can do a better job than the building society.

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As prices fall, the cash versus equities debate comes to the fore again



Turning backs on the market: Maydown Mergers members (from left) Jim Wray, Mike Carroll and Nigel Bevington

Investors divided

The crisis of a tumbling stock market sharply divides investors. There are those who feel they should cut their losses and bail out and those who see it as a wonderful opportunity to buy fundamentally sound stocks at bargain-basement prices.

As *The Times* pays another of its regular visits to two investment clubs - The Victoria Investment Club in Truro, Cornwall, and the Maydown Mergers Investment Club in Londonderry, Northern Ireland - a fierce debate is raging between the bulls and the bears.

Both clubs have exercised stop losses on a number of shares in their portfolios and both are sitting on relatively large piles of cash waiting for the market to settle or at least present some bargains.

The last time we visited them in July, the FTSE 100 index had recovered strongly, nearly reaching the 6,200 mark. Since then the market has bounced down and down, falling to below 5,200.

HOW THE CLUBS PERFORMED			
MAYDOWN MERGERS INVESTMENT CLUB			
September 7, 1998: portfolio worth £5,649.86			
Shares/walks	Price now	Profit/loss (£)	
Gartmore Irish Smaller Cos.	802	151.00p	316.22
Chronosence	113	212.50p	-920.90
Go-Ahead Group	300	671.50p	537.65
Mercury European Warrants	1724	58.50p	-513.02
Pace Micro	176	87.00p	150.81
NATIONAL PROFIT	TOTAL		£438.68
VICTORIA INVESTMENT CLUB			
September 9, 1998: portfolio worth £20,896.98			
Shares/walks	Price now	Profit/loss (£)	
Albermarle	3973	73.50p	-79.27
Dolphin Packaging	859	200.50p	222.32
Ferraris	1342	146.75p	30.62
Isotron	460	520.00p	395.67
Latchways	700	265.00p	-197.58
Mindia Business Group	2000	308.00p	836
Milco Group	16830	18.25p	1,334.88
Orbit	2409	45.50p	-303.90
Riva	1963	75.00p	-27.75
Taylor Nelson	2006	113.50p	905.46
NATIONAL PROFIT	TOTAL		£3,358.33

Overall, the Mergers are bearish about the world economy, but buying stocks is what an investment club is set up to do, so they feel there is little point holding on to cash for long.

They have split themselves up into four sub-groups of three, each expected to come up with its own share recommendations for the monthly meeting.

Jayesh Manek, the Ruislip chemist who twice won *The Sunday Times* fantasy investment league and now manages the £100 million Manek Growth Fund, is dumping shares in favour of cash on fears that the stock market will not recover until at least the end of the year.

Manek fund now has 25% held in cash



Jayesh Manek insists that US stocks remain overvalued

Nearly 25 per cent of the fund is now held in cash, compared with less than 5 per cent at other fund managers such as M&G.

The switch to cash follows a sharp fall in performance of the fund, which has 22,000 small investors. After racing up to fourth position in its sector just months after its launch in December last year, the fund has recently plummeted to the bottom quartile of UK growth funds.

The fund has been battered by hefty falls in the small and mid-cap growth stocks in which it specialises. Buyers paid 99p a unit in December but the bid price has since fallen to 91p, a drop of 8 per cent. Mr Manek expects worse to come, and believes that the US market in particular remains seriously overvalued. "I think the trend is still down and we will still see quite a lot of fall-out before it stabilises. I expect a lot of volatility and I do not see a broader recovery until at least the end of the year."

Despite the fund's recent underperformance, very few of the small investors who bought at launch have pulled out, says Mr Manek. "Some of the early investors may be disappointed, but it must be looked at in a medium to long-term perspective," he said. Mr Manek's medium-term view is that Wall Street has overshoot its trend growth line since 1987 and needs to fall back some way further before value appears. "There is a huge gap between where the Dow is and where the trend line says it should be." The same trend lines suggest the FTSE is also still overvalued despite the recent market correction, but Mr Manek believes that the UK and Europe offer fundamentally better value than Wall Street.

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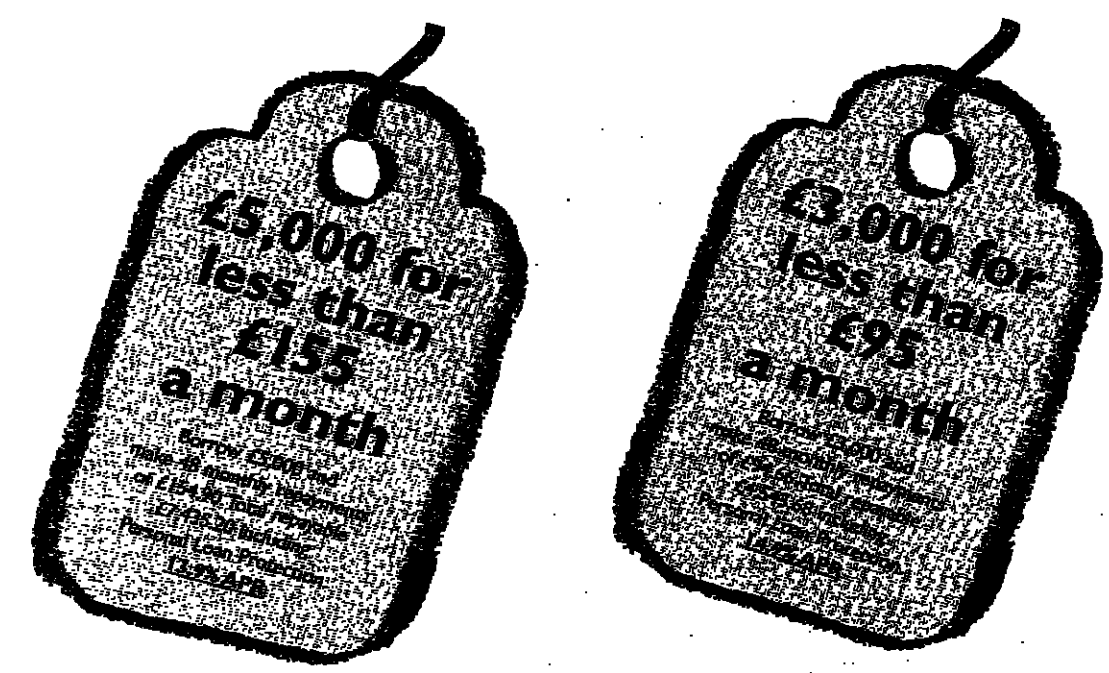
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Break free from the bonds of your mortgage

Gavin Lumsden on why Britain could soon witness a profound change in the way people handle their money

Homeowners across the land are making plans to escape from the burden of their mortgages after the Bank of England's decision not to cut interest rates on Thursday.

By holding base rates at 7.45 per cent the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee has dashed the hopes of millions of homeowners who had expected the cost of their mortgages would start coming down after five interest rate rises since last year's general election.

Hard-pressed homeowners could now be tempted to bite the bullet and switch to lenders who allow them to increase their payments so they can get out of hock as quickly as possible. With stock markets in turmoil and base rates poised to slide to 3 per cent in the next two years, experts are saying that for most people the best financial returns will come from simply paying off their debts as quickly as possible.

This could herald a profound change in the way the British public handles its money. As interest rates collapse to postwar lows, many savers accounts — which on average are paying only 4 per cent net — will become unviable and be withdrawn. At this point savers will be left with two options: have fun and blow the loot on a huge spending spree on holidays and in the high street; or, more boringly, pay off their debts and migrate to a new generation of savings products which combine some of the returns from the stock market with total capital security. However, this last option is by no means certain. Barclays's attempt to plug the savings gap with B2 and its protected Advanced Savings Account is widely held to have been a dismal failure and attracted very few savers.

Lenders, however, are having a bit more success. An increasing number of borrowers are turning to a new range of flexible and penalty-free loans which allow them to make additional lump sum payments.

Research has shown that homeowners who can afford to consistently overpay on their loans can save themselves thousands of pounds in unpaid interest and finish their mortgage years ahead of schedule.

For example, someone paying £83 a month on a 25-year £70,000 mortgage charging 8.1 per cent interest could pay off the debt five years early and save £24,000 in interest by adding £50 to the monthly payment.

If the same person could stretch to

an extra £100 each month it would mean a £38,000 saving in interest and finish the loan more than seven years early. For a basic-rate taxpayer these savings are equivalent to 10.4 per cent compound interest on savings. For higher-rate taxpayers the savings represent a staggering 13.5 per cent return.

Ray Boulger of John Charcol, the mortgage adviser, said: "Paying back a mortgage is a totally risk-free return which is likely to be significantly better than a comparable investment. The stock market is unlikely to give as high a return and will give a higher degree of risk. The only exception, perhaps, for higher-rate taxpayers is making extra contributions to their pension, which will get 40 per cent tax relief."

For borrowers who are serious about reducing their credit levels flexible mortgages should be their first port of call. Several lenders, such as Bank of Scotland and Virgin, have developed these specialist home loans in response to growing demand from the self-employed and contract workers.

With flexible mortgages borrowers can vary the amount they pay to lenders each month and can even take a payment holiday during a period of unemployment or pregnancy. Interest is calculated either on a daily or a monthly basis so borrowers who do pay more will quickly see a reduction in their charges.

In addition, most flexible lenders allow borrowers to build up a reserve of money from their overpayments which they can withdraw again when needed. Some "current account mortgages" even provide chequebooks and cash cards for this purpose. The advantage of this is that money held in reserve grows at the lender's interest rate. When it is withdrawn it effectively becomes a new loan. Here the lender's rate will compare favourably with the interest charged on most personal loans.

However, until now most borrowers have held back from flexible mortgages because lenders have insisted on charging their standard variable rates of interest. Making an overpayment on an 8.5 per cent mortgage actually saves you less money than if you stuck with normal payments on a mortgage charging a fixed level of 6.5 per cent interest.

All this is about to change. First Active Financial, formerly known as Mortgage Trust, a pioneer of flexible



Xena the warrior princess and her trusty sidekick Gabrielle would not have stood idly by as interest rates rose

mortgages, has just launched a compelling range of capped loans which will ensure your interest never rises above between 7.99 per cent and 8.24 per cent over two years. There are no mortgage indemnity guarantee fees and you can make any number of overpayments.

The Woolwich has enhanced its flexible Open Plan by offering a three-year capped rate at 6.25 per cent and a five-year rate fixed at 6.75 per cent. Borrowers who take either of these can repay up to 10 per cent of their mortgage each year with no penalty. The Alliance & Leicester is also

planning to launch a flexible mortgage soon. This will allow borrowers complete freedom in varying their payments and will allow them to withdraw overpayments. It will be a vast improvement on its existing no-repayment fee mortgage, which only allows borrowers to make overpayments of more than £500.

Patrick Buntun, of London & County, said: "That has got to be good news. In an ideal world there would be no nasty lock-in periods and interest would be calculated daily."

Borrowers who find the new-fangled flexible loans outpacing can

achieve much the same savings with more traditional mortgages. Both Halifax and Nationwide, for example, have abolished early redemption penalties on a range of their discounted mortgages. This means you can make a partial repayment at any time.

Most other lenders will only let you pay an extra lump sum into the mortgage once you have passed through their initial lock-in period. If you find this frustrating you can always salt the money into a savings account — while they still exist — and make the payment later.

Barclays plans to bring you cash in a flash

Barclays this week launched a new initiative that effectively slashes the cheque clearance time for 10 million of its customers.

From the beginning of next month, customers who pay in cheques worth up to £1,000 will have instant access to their funds, even though the cheques themselves still have to go through the inter-bank clearing process. The bank claimed that it was introducing the initiative in response to demand from customers.

At the moment, cheques take between three and five days to clear, depending on the bank. For instance, cheques with Midland usually take three days to clear, while cheques with Lloyds TSB take longer.

The Barclays initiative is part of a new drive by the bank towards instant banking. Other changes include being able to transfer money instantly to third parties that have Barclays accounts, and being able to pay Barclaycard bills instantly. The new initiative

will be especially beneficial to the nearly two million people who receive their wages by cheque each month.

The other banks poured scorn on the Barclays initiative, and claimed that they had no plans to follow suit. They pointed out that the Barclays move did put customers at risk. If the cheque bounces after the customer has withdrawn the funds, then the customer was liable for the money.

Barclays said that its mailing to 10 million customers made it fundamentally clear that they were responsible for any bounced cheques.

Anthony Frost, Natwest, said: "We at Natwest will do that for customers at the discretion of the branch. Clearing protects the customer from an unauthorised overdraft. The customers have no control. Potentially, 1 or 2 per cent of cheques are bounced."

Gary Hoffman, the chief executive of UK retail banking at Barclays, said: "It is up to the customer to ensure that the cheque will not bounce."

At the moment, all cheques have to go through the Bank of England clearing system, and have to be physically transferred by post between the banks.

The new service will not be available for all Barclays customers. Mr Hoffman said that around 5 per cent of the bank's customers would not be able to benefit from the service as their accounts were considered to be risky — that is, they were the recipients of too many bounced cheques.

Mr Hoffman said: "The cheque clearing cycle is currently a fact of life, but this initiative gives Barclays personal customers more access, control and choice over their day-to-day banking."

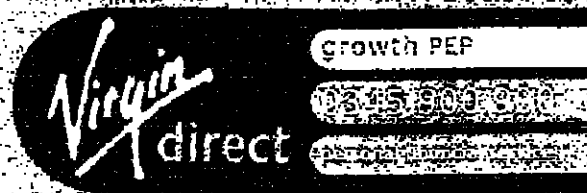
Bob Rankine from Barclays said it had taken the initiative to effectively cut clearing times, because the current archaic system looked as though it would remain in place for some time. He said that about 1 per cent of cheques bounced, worth some £2 million a week.

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Providing for the inevitable

Jill Insley reports on the growing market for pre-paid funerals and looks at what is on offer for those seeking peace of mind

Pre-paid funeral plans have received appalling publicity over the past few years. One firm closed down, leaving several funeral bills unpaid. Others have been accused by the Office of Fair Trading of using hard sell techniques to pressure the elderly and vulnerable into buying plans.

Despite these problems, the popularity of schemes to pre-arrange and pay for one's own funeral has grown rapidly. More than 250,000 people have bought plans, and the industry estimates that sales will increase to seven million over the next few years. Advanced Planning, which entered the market just a year ago, has already sold 20,000 plans.

Advanced Planning is a joint venture between Service Corporation International (SCI), one of the leading pre-arranged funeral plan companies in the United States, and Age Concern, the charity for the elderly. For each plan sold, Age Concern receives an average of £24 in profits.

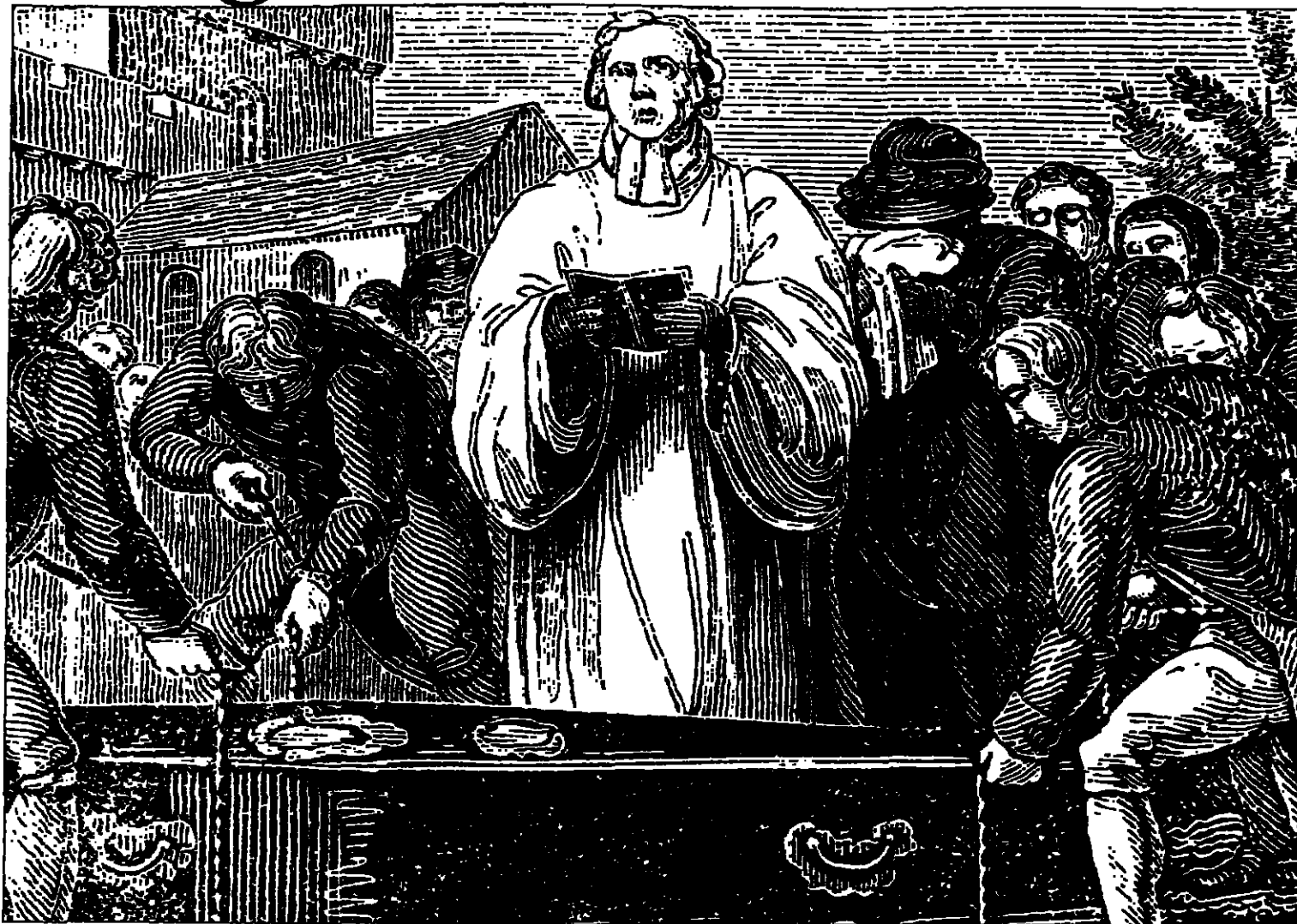
Age Concern's decision to set up its own funeral plan company followed the Office of Fair Trading's severe criticism of the methods used by several companies to sell their plans.

Sir Bryan Carsberg, who was then Director-General of Fair Trading, said that plan providers and funeral directors should be prohibited from unsolicited marketing in nursing homes and hospital wards, and from offering incentives to charities such as Age Concern for endorsing their plans.

Although Age Concern only owns 25 per cent of Advanced Planning, all decisions taken by the company's five directors must be agreed unanimously, allowing the charity to maintain control over the type of plans offered and the way they are sold.

The idea is quite simple. You choose a funeral now and pay a premium equivalent to the amount it would cost at today's prices, either in one lump sum or as a monthly instalment. The money is invested in an independently managed trust fund designed to keep pace with inflation. Advanced Planning guarantees to pay the full cost of the funeral director's services and the normal disbursement costs, regardless of when you die.

Advanced Planning offers three types of funeral plan. The Regular Plan at £1,060 is the cheapest version, providing a simple coffin and a hearse to carry it to the crematorium or cemetery. The Select Plan at £1,335 provides a quality wood-effect coffin, and one limousine as well as the hearse. Family members are also



In the past people saved all their lives to be buried with dignity. Today many people try to avoid burdening their heirs by pre-paying funeral costs

able to view the body during normal business hours. The Regency is the most expensive plan, costing £1,735. This provides a wood veneer coffin, two limousines as well as the hearse, and allows family viewing of the deceased at any time by appointment.

Applicants who buy their plans through one of the 200 local Age Concern groups receive a £25 discount. Customers who want to pull out of the plan will receive a refund of the money originally paid but none of the growth accumulated in the meantime.

All three plans incorporate £310 to cover cremation disbursements — the cost of a service at the local crematorium and the doctor's and minister's fees. The cost of being buried is usually higher and applicants can either pay an additional premium themselves or leave their relatives to make up the difference.

Until this month, Advanced Planning has limited the choice of funeral directors to the 380 branches of SCI and 70 independent firms to ensure consistent quality of service. But the company has just decided to allow customers a free choice of independent funeral directors, provided the one they choose belongs to one of the

funeral industry's recognised trade associations and is prepared to guarantee carrying out the funeral.

However, about 2,000 independent funeral directors sell plans for another pre-arranged funeral plan company called Golden Charter, and some may be unwilling to act for another company.

John Delves, of Albert Parr & Sons in Penge, says Golden Charter offers very competitive prices and a wide choice, enabling customers to personalise their funerals to a much greater degree. "If you want a horse drawn carriage or a jazz band, you can add it on to one of the four plans through the Select Reserve Option," he says.

Costs for the Golden Charter plans range from £1,050 for the most basic funeral (very similar to Advanced Planning's Regular Plan) through to £2,100 for the Golden Approach (similar to Advanced Planning's Regency Plan with the exception that the coffin is solid wood). The cost of optional extras will be calculated at outset and added to the premium.

The Co-operative Funeral Bond takes flexibility one stage further, enabling customers to tailor-make their

funeral arrangements from scratch. Once the details are decided, the arrangements are costed, paid for and the premiums invested in a trust fund like the other schemes.

Peter Wills, manager of Advanced Planning, says his company's customers can also personalise their funerals, but accepts that someone who wants to add many different details may be better off approaching an independent funeral director.

The Advanced Planning trust fund is conservatively managed, with the vast majority of the money being held as cash or invested in gilts and bonds. Independent financial advisers might reasonably be expected to recommend people to invest their money in equity-based savings schemes with the aim not only of paying for their funeral but also providing some extra cash for their beneficiaries.

But all of the advisers consulted agreed that the Advanced Planning schemes were a good idea for certain customers.

Martin Mullany, of Brooks Macdonald Gayer, says that funeral prices have gone up by 73 per cent over the past ten years. He says: "If they carry on at that

rate, you would need to make about 5.7 per cent growth each year, give or take the effect of compounding.

"You are unlikely to do that with a building society account, and many of the people who are likely to be attracted to this sort of plan will not want to invest in a volatile stock market based scheme. It would not give them the same peace of mind."

Amanda Davidson, of Holden Meehan, says: "It might seem macabre sorting out a funeral before you die, but for those who are approaching death, it can be very comforting.

"My great uncle wanted to be buried with a black marble memorial stone, and he actually got black granite. At least if you pre-arrange you know your wishes will be carried out."

Potential customers should bear in mind that the pre-arranged funeral industry is still unregulated, although the Government intends to draw these plans under the cover of a new Financial Services and Markets Act. Details should be published this Autumn.

In the meantime, customers should always check the security and financial record of the company from which they buy a plan.

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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Common sense beats specialists

From Mr Alan Jenkins
Sir, John Moret of Winterthur Life argues (Weekend Money Letters, August 22) that no one should take out a drawdown plan unless from a self-invested personal pension (SIPP), and that only the specially qualified should be allowed to advise on these matters.

One can understand Mr Moret's enthusiasm for SIPPs — after all his company sells them — and it is quite true that a SIPP is always very good indeed for the salesman.

However, its complexity and cost is not always ideal for the buyer, for whom a simpler and lower charge arrangement will usually offer better value.

The Financial Services fraternity is dedicated to convincing the rest of us that only its specially qualified members can manage our savings, and income drawdown is a golden opportunity to perpetrate this myth.

There is nothing like a commission of perhaps 5 per cent or more of an entire pension fund to bring the specially trained advisers out of the woodwork.

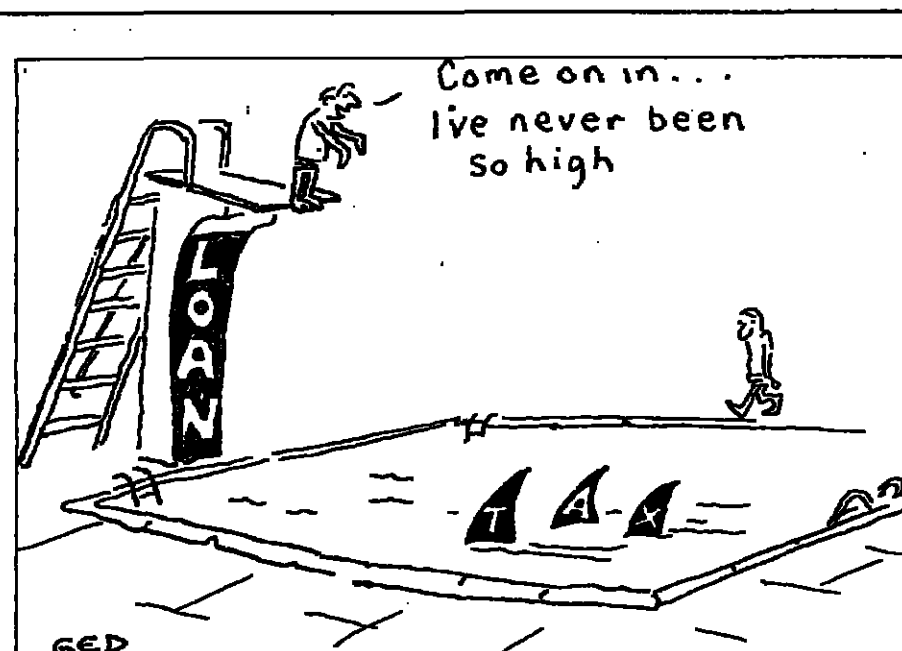
Such plans are not difficult to understand. The provider will provide a detailed illustration and this together with explanatory literature and Key Features document will allow most people to understand the plan.

Answers to any further questions should be available from the provider, who after all should know more about its own plan than any third party adviser.

With hindsight, such plans will always provide disappointing returns to some people because they depend on investment returns which even "specially qualified advisers" can't predict.

However, with investment sense, a cautious investment, and above all low ment, drawdown is a charges, drawdown is a worthwhile option for those who understand that investments have both risks and rewards.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN JENKINS,
6 Wisley Road,
London, SW11 6NF.



Government puts tax on education

From Mr Larry Moriarty
Sir, I would like to point out that at this time when students in higher education face the loss of grant and free tuition, the Government's low key and little publicised increase in the interest rate levied on student loans by

over 34 per cent calls for some more in-depth inquiry and enlightenment. This is even more urgent given that levels of student loans are set to rise dramatically.

The Government may well have not increased taxation rates but the student loan system is now being used as a "back-door" tax on education.

Yours faithfully,
LARRY MORIARTY,
Creagan,
6 Mavis Road,
Blackburn,
BB2 6SW.

Pay advisers for advice, not products

From Ms Gillian M. Cardy

Sir, Prudential salesmen were to become farmers rather than hunters, but management requires them still to meet professional economic business levels.

However, every organisation that exists must sell a product, in whatever form, to a purchaser, thus generating income so that the organisation continues in business.

Income should also exceed outgoings (unless you are in the fortunate position of having a generous parent who can allow provision of "loss leaders") and the income should cover the costs of putting the product in front of the customer, usually achieved by setting sales targets.

Both hunters and farmers must set a market to consume their products. Commission-only salesmen are no different to those on salaries (often with performance-related bonuses).

Both must produce certain levels of premium income to satisfy their masters that they are earning their living; both must sell more or lose their jobs.

The sooner that the financial services industry starts to market "advice" as the "product", the sooner the public will start to get a better deal.

Imagine how much better informed your readers would become if the hunters, or the farmers, were targeted by

numbers of in-depth, long-term financial plans prepared, instead of by commission income.

More people might even seek advice if they felt confident that they would get advice, and not be inveigled into accepting some dubious, poor value or inappropriate vehicle by a heavy handed salesman under pressure to keep his job.

Yours faithfully,
GILLIAN CARDY,
Professional Partnerships,
Independent Financial Planning,
11 Broad Road,
Epsom,
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BTR REVISITED 57

Graham Searjeant on the decline of a conglomerate

WEEKEND MONEY

BREAKING OUT 62

Homeowners rebel at the way their money is handled



The high cost of loving

Caroline Merrell reports on the latest moves towards a fairer deal for those couples who choose to cohabit

Around two thirds of all couples live together before they get married. Most cohabit for only two years before they tie the knot...

often been quoted as saying: "It's just not to my taste. When I see my friends fall in love, get married and then divorced, it seems like this embarrassing awful change of mind."

partner for 17 years and brought up their three children. The court found that despite her contribution as a mother and homemaker, she was not entitled to a share in the house when the relationship broke down...



Playing safe: Jerry Hall finally got her man to the altar after 14 years of living together



Helen Mirren changed her mind and tied the knot this year after 12 years with the film director Taylor Hackford

Inequality between cohabitants and those that choose to marry are in three distinct financial areas: property, pensions and inheritance.

A second option could be to create a new power for courts to adjust finances and property when unmarried couples break up, just as is the case with married couples.

ally half the pension bestowed on the pension scheme member. If the pension scheme member dies, then the widow or widower will benefit from the reduced pension until they die.

der company pension schemes are also often only bestowed on either someone nominated by the pension scheme member, or the next of kin...

INSIDE

59 Anne Ashworth on the cash or shares debate

55 The pros and cons of using share options

59 How to cut the cost of power bills

60 Save on your dealing costs as prices fall

BUSINESS NEWS pages 49-53 UNIT TRUST PRICES p54 SHARE PRICES p48

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

Halifax is aiming to undercut low-cost execution-only share dealers such as Charles Schwab and Nat-West Stockbrokers...

Halifax ready to take on the stockbrokers

ber last year after running into a string of administrative and computer problems which culminated in a £250,000 fine.

Further competition will come from new Internet-based brokers. Both Barclays Stockbrokers and Nat-West Stockbrokers say they plan to launch Internet trading sites before the end of this year.

Save on dealing, page 60

Bad news for holiday fraudsters

Pursuing a holiday insurance claim is becoming a little harder. Honest claimants can put the blame on the fraudsters, those travellers who console themselves for the ending of their holiday by submitting a falsified claim for the theft of some expensive item, such as a camera.



Airport CCTV cameras have proved useful in protecting luggage from loss

a return journey were seen on camera to retrieve two cases from the carousel. Then, while the husband took the cases to the car, the wife was seen to call at the property irregularly desk and report one missing.

state health service cannot cope with the number of tourists who fall ill involves private medical facilities. "Such clinics appear by magic in the best-known areas and private ambulance companies always seem to take victims to them," says TIA's Dennis Myers.

PHILIP BARRON.

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الجمعة 12 سبتمبر

MARCO PIERRE WHITE



Battle of the gills: the chef squares up to a salmon

page 3

SHOPPING



Spin out summer with lilacs, pinks and lavenders

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FEATURE



Prince's popsie: Edward VIII's unseen love letters

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MATTHEW PARRIS



Hard labour: shifting five tons of rock by hand

page 14

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12 1998

THE TIMES WEEKEND

'I don't think she's aware of what she's lost'

John Bayley, husband of the novelist Iris Murdoch, tells Moira Petty how he copes with his wife's Alzheimer's Disease

Dame Iris Murdoch sits at her kitchen table, implacable, mysterious, like some wise cat caught up in a silent reverie. Her husband, John Bayley, the literary critic and former Warton Professor of English at Oxford University, is explaining with infinite patience the task he has devised, something to fend off the boredom which fills her with a melancholic anxiety. The fog of Alzheimer's Disease began closing in around Dame Iris, now 79, several years ago: by 1996 there was no doubt about the diagnosis. The gradual atrophy of the phenomenal brain which produced 26 novels of great erudition, including The Bell, The Severed Head and The Sacred and Profane Love Machine, as well as works of philosophy, has left Bayley scrabbling around to adjust to the narrowed perimeters of their lives, with Dame Iris trailing blankly, if benignly, in his wake. Her co-ordination is failing and, worse, she cannot grasp the concept of the simplest activities, like dressing or washing the dishes. "She can do up her shoelaces, but doesn't get around to it. The fact is that the one big thing has gone," murmurs Bayley, 73. "Nothing else mattered but her writing." Her last novel, Jackson's Dilemma, was published in 1995. By the time the reviews came out, she was unable to understand them. "The extraordinary intellectual process of planning a novel was so meticulous and complete that she would announce: 'I've finished! I'd say: 'You can't be! She'd say: 'I've only got to write it'. It was all in her head." The only clues to how her mind works now are the brain

Continued on page 2



Iris Murdoch in 1950, before she became a hugely successful author. Today, she cannot write at all, and even struggles to perform the simplest tasks, like tying her shoelaces

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The cat's whiskers: Sprite

Anne Robinson



● OUR NEW kitchen is being installed this week. It has been a long haul. Not so much the choosing, but the decision to dabble again with a kitchen firm. Penrose remains scarred from an experience 18 years ago when a man driving a black Porsche arrived late in the evening and, hey presto, we signed up for a Moben kitchen. Penrose thinks we should have known better and about once a week he will say of some situation: "It's as bad as that bloody man in the black Porsche flogging us the instant kitchen."

Anyway, this time we chose Roger. Roger has double-breasted suits and a middle-range motor and his firm masterminded the bespoke wardrobes for Mrs T when she was at No 10. Roger doesn't try to sell you anything. Roger is very understated. "Interesting" is the word he uses when he thinks the idea you've had is a bit dodgy. "That's fine" is for when he wholeheartedly agrees.

Roger didn't mind that I wanted a cooking range and not an Aga. Although in Gloucestershire this decision has been greeted with outright horror. Roger was also non-committal about gas versus electric ovens. In a panic I ran over to Launceston Place to consult the head chef, rang Jeremy at the Ivy, pestered Nigel Slater and dropped a note to the wonderful Frances Bissell. I now know real cooks aren't in the least bit fussy about equipment. None of the above thought that it mattered that much. And it confirms what a kitchen designer at Heal's told me. The posher the kitchen the less likely that it belongs to a cook. He said I'd be amazed by the calls on Christmas Eve from people who'd bought an oven costing the price of a Ford Fiesta and now wanted to know how to remove the protective wrapping so they could try to roast a turkey.

● TO Hampstead Theatre Club to see *Full Gallop*. Mary Louise

Wilson's one woman show — which she co-wrote — on a day in the life of that high priestess of fashion, Diana Vreeland. Famously sacked from *Vogue* in 1971. A dazzling evening, the tall, languid, intimidating figure in black cashmere a reminder of several bygone Fleet Street grandes dames. But as a play for women it has suffered from being reviewed by

male critics. Our party of five women included the daughter and her friend, the lovely Michele from New York.

As we get up to leave, a handsome young man hails the girls and Michele squeals "Jessie! Are you still serving at Pizza Uno on Third Ave?" "No," says Jessie modestly. "I'm over here playing the second lead in *Rent*." Whoops.

● JUST TO recap on my Old Women's Home. It is to be a haven where those whose husbands have departed can bring their staff and their skills and where pooled resources will prevent us all from being lonely.

My Gloucestershire neighbour Carolyn North drops a note through my letterbox saying she would definitely like to reserve a

place and she is good for feeding dogs and wrapping Christmas presents. Wendy Davy in Weybridge wants two places. She and her partner are qualified Cerebral Activation Trainers, which is very popular in Europe and will stop our brains rotting. A reader in Devon, whose daughter is about to marry a garrulous Swede, asks if she can come immediately. And Jenny de Robeck in Cumbria reminds me that we will need an occupational therapist. Who else, she inquires, is going to help us on with our knickers in the morning, provide non-fall-over egg-cups, work the equipment we'll need to hoist us in and out of our baths and keep our walking frames in good order? I fear the idea is losing its glamour.

● LATER, a letter from one of my tennis partners, currently at his home in LA. He says news of the planned Old Women's Home has upset him greatly. "While a

residence for elderly ladies is not in conflict with playing the game of tennis," he writes. "several of your male tennis partners feel hurt they are being excluded from your future plans. And at the start of the new millennium to be taking a female chauvinist view about elderly gentlemen is most unbecoming." I have scribbled a note back saying that as he is President of EMI Europe and knows about music, we might just allow him in on a Saturday night to run our disco.

● BACK IN London for the start of *Watchdog* and dinner at the Ivy. Dale Winton, star of *Supermarket Sweep*, makes a grand entrance. "Annie," he cries, "meet my very best friend, Chris. He's helping me do up my new house." Chris politely shakes my hand. "I don't suppose you'll remember," he says, "but some years ago I sold you a kitchen." "Oh yes," say I, "and you used to drive a black Porsche."

The chef has other fish to fry

Marco Pierre White has a day out on the river with Ben Webb

As the stars flock to be seen at the Mirabelle, helping Robert Redford celebrate the premiere of his film *The Horse Whisperer*, one man is shunning the flashbulbs and media glare. The multi-millionaire restaurant owner himself.

Marco Pierre White is a world away, hunched over a pair of skis as he carves through a perilous corner on the piste. He races across the finishing line and sprays snow to a stop. He looks at his time and grins. "I win again," he enthuses, as he steps off the virtual video game.

Marco is in a Bournemouth arcade and celebrating something much more important than a film premiere. Today, after 14 hours of intense struggle on the banks of the Avon, he landed two plump salmon.

He slots another £1 coin into the machine — just like one of the local lads, apart from the panama hat, that is, and the three Michelin stars and the millions of pounds to his name. Co-owner of the Café Royal, Quo Vadis, the Criterion, MPMV, the Oak Room and, of course, the Mirabelle, he was valued by the *Sunday Times* Rich List at £30 million, Britain's 668th richest man.

When this precocious, tempestuous, handsome chef first emerged he seemed to crave fame but acquired infamy. Even his hybrid name, with its Italian, French and English chunks, seemed a stunt.

He now lives with his Spanish partner, Mati, and their sons, Luciano and Marco, and the business is ticking over nicely. "At work I used to play an attacking game the whole time," he says. "Now I play a defensive game."

At weekends Marco escapes London for his country home on an island in the River Avon — a prime spot on the Royalty Fishery in Hampshire. It was there that I met him to go fishing.

It is 9am. Marco, his 6ft 3in frame engulfed by chest-high green waders and the panama hat hiding his brown curly hair, has been up for three hours and he is not happy. Apart from having just had to club a mink to death, he says, "I'm gutted. I had a salmon — a beautiful fish — on the hook for eight seconds, but I lost it. It was a lovely fish."

As we wander to a stretch of the crystal river where he believes the salmon will be lying, Marco explains his passion. "I'm not addicted to fishing," he muses. "I just miss it a lot when I haven't done it for a while. I bought the house so I could be near my family and fish."

Through his Polaroid sunglasses he spots a shoal of chub, including one "huge fish" and a barbel. "Take a look." He hands me his glasses. The underwater world coalesces with a new clarity.

But Marco is after salmon. A moment later, the man who still slaves over a hot stove each night in the Oak Room

delicately prepares a red-dyed prawn — a snack to tempt the fish which do not eat once they have left the sea.

He slides into the water between a gap in the rushes and begins to cast, concentrating hard. At any moment another battle may begin.

Marco is a battler. A dyslexic born on a Leeds council estate, he fought his way through the ranks to emerge as one of the greatest chefs of his generation. It has been a tempestuous life. Dubbed the *enfant terrible* of cuisine because of his temper tantrums, he has been divorced twice, had bust-ups with business partners like Michael Caine, and turfed people out of Harvey's, the restaurant he opened when he was just 26 and where he collected two Michelin stars. Rocco Forte then installed him in the Hyde Park Hotel where he won a third star in 1995.

But in the river, the rod braced against his forearm, he has no need to worry about work. He can let his mind drift with the float. At work, he admits, he is a hard taskmaster but on the river he is affable, chatting to other anglers and wishing them all luck. He strides the banks, master of the domain, dishing out advice — the offer to fish from his island — with a baronial air. But somehow he remains mazy. When the bailiffs inspect his up-market rod and Marco reveals he owns another ten, they think "typical Marco" rather than "flash git".

We spot a shadow under a footbridge. "That's a very nice fish," he says eagerly. "An impressive fish. It'll go like a bat out of hell." But an angler already positioned on the opposite bank takes a dim

view of Marco's growing interest. Marco is unabashed. He wants the salmon. He has lost one already.

I think of him chucking out eaters for ordering well-done steak. He admits he was like a "serial killer" who got a taste for ejecting his clients — his record was 54 in one night. Would the rival angler suffer a similar fate?

Marco cajoles him into joining forces. Soon Marco is casting away and his new friend is lying on the bridge giving directions. "Left a bit. Right a bit. A little deeper. Perfect."

However, the fish is not biting. Marco gives up. "A fish is like a woman," he declares philosophically. "Sometimes they bite and sometimes they don't." As we walk downstream, he spots

some wild watercress — a perfect accompaniment to salmon — and talks about nature's great culinary combinations: the wood pigeon in the elderberry bush, the trout and crayfish sharing the river, the plump pheasant roosting in an orchard. "We chefs are not that clever," he says.

Marco, of course, is clever. And he also has a canny knack for catching salmon. On the Royalty only six salmon have been caught all summer and two of them were caught by



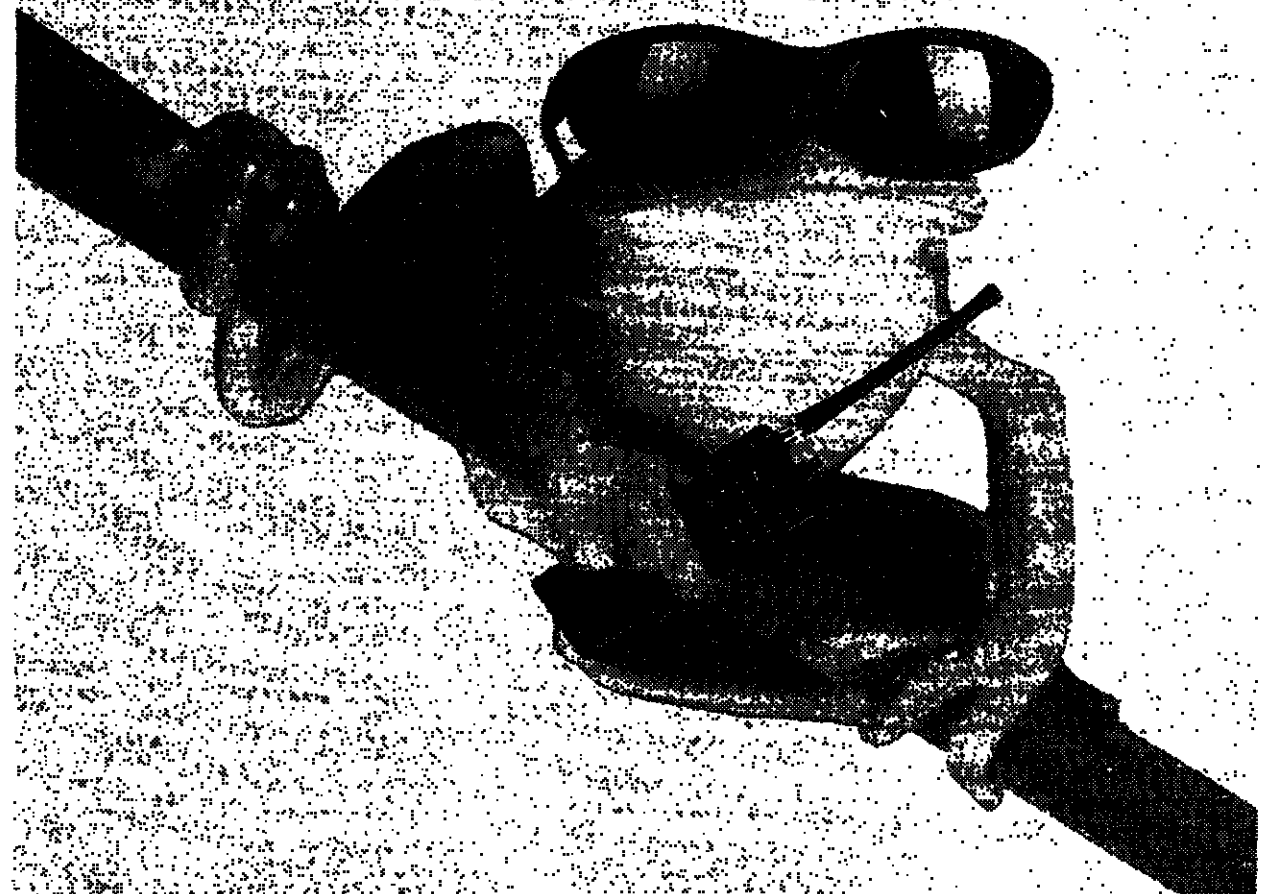
'I can't see the point of killing these ones,' he says, letting the exhausted salmon go and holding its tail in the water until it recovers. 'It's about respect, isn't it?'

‘Fish are like women: sometimes they bite, sometimes they don’t’



Marco has caught four plump salmon this season

For anyone interested in water



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Western Esplanade, Southampton

All information correct at time of going to press.

The childish language and saccharine affection displayed by the Prince of Wales in private letters reveal his emotional immaturity

In all, there are 263 letters, many of them pathetic declarations of love and often written in baby language. They were sent relentlessly by Edward, Prince of Wales to Freda Dudley Ward, his lover before Wallis Simpson, from March 1918 to January 1921.

The letters were discovered by chance two years ago in a dust-covered trunk belonging to a Canadian stamp collector. He had bought the collection for their early stamps and postmarks. And after letting them gather dust for 20 years, he decided to sift through the trunk just as a

friend who recognised the worth of the letters was staying with him. They have now been published for the first time.

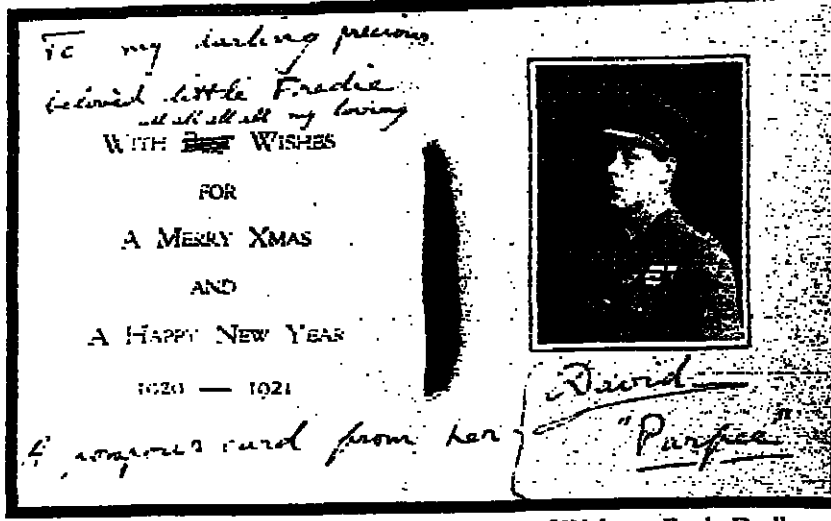
Late in February of 1918, during the First World War, the Prince attended a party in Belgrave Square in London. During the evening, an air-raid was sounded and a couple who had been walking through the square sought refuge in the doorway of the house where the party was taking place. The hostess invited the couple, one of whom was Freda Dudley Ward, the estranged wife of a Labour MP, to shelter with the other

guests in the cellar. Edward was immediately attracted to Freda and was soon involved with her. Edward's devotion to his beloved "Fwedie Wedie" was all-consuming. The saccharine terms of affection, the baby-talk, the swear words and lewd jokes that he uses repeatedly in the letters are embarrassing; the insecurity that he feels and the stalling nature of his role as Prince of Wales are pitiful. On more than one occasion he hints of resignation. Where the Prince used blanks for his colourful language, they have been reproduced. Sometimes, however, he

was not so polite. The letters do not reveal the cowardly manner in which he finished the affair. In early 1934, Freda was wholly preoccupied with the illness of her elder daughter. When the trouble was past, she telephoned York House and, to the operator's extreme embarrassment, had to be told that instructions had been given that she was not to be put through.

In this cruel fashion, the Prince terminated the 16-year friendship and his relationship with Mrs Simpson took over his life.

ANDREW YATES



A Christmas card sent in 1920 from the Prince of Wales to Freda Dudley Ward

When the Prince fell in love

Previously unpublished letters from Edward, Prince of Wales to Freda Dudley Ward expose the deep unhappiness he felt about his royal life

4th April 1918
Life is as deadly dull and depressing as ever out here & I am so bored though this is only my 4th night here, but I suppose I shall get used to it again.

But I got a bottle of your scent [Royal Briar] the morning I left & this means a great deal to me. I put some on my handkerchief when I go to bed & then I feel happy as it smells of you. angel!! It is too divine for words & makes me temporarily insane.

Goodnight Freda my darling & do write again soon as I just live for your letters! Tons & tons of my very best love & des milliers de baisers from your very very devoted adoring.

baiser bien doux" wishing more than ever I could do so to the original, though it would not be the case of "un petit baiser"; it would be tous tous mes baisers, ma toute petite amour a moi qu'envoie ton E qui t'aime et qui adore a distraction!!!!

3rd July
I enclose the "shocking" little notice about the WAACs [see picture] though it may be the one you meant; I hope you don't mind me sending you these sorts of things... after all they really are very harmless little jokes & yet amusing!!

21st July
I love the rhymes, which are all new to me except "May you live as long as you want to". The best line you sent me is "If I thought you'd do it well, I might!"

I suppose they are rather naughty, but that makes them all the nicer.

22nd July
I wonder if you know either of the two enclosed rhymes, one of which is a "toast"; they are both very "naughty", especially the "toast"!!

A Toast
Here's to the girl who loves me to rest
With my arms around her waist
& my head on her breast,
Cheek to cheek, & face to face.
And everything else in its proper place!!
I love the girls who do,
And I love the girls who don't.
But I hate the girls who say they do
And then you find they won't,
Of all the girls that I love best
And I think you'll say I'm right,
Is the girl who never says she does
But looks as though she might!!

14th April
I heard a rumour that the King had written personally to Lady Drogheda remonstrating with her for giving that dance; I must say that I think it's the worst possible form to give dances during this most desperate & critical time of the war, don't you darling? [Lady Drogheda's dance made her very unpopular as not only was the battle raging in France, but it was also Holy Week.]

22nd April
How funny that you should have passed the King in an enormous car; I wonder if he saw you darling?!! Oh!! this war & why has fate ordained that I should spend my life "au front"? I'm so fearfully bored & getting worse each day & absolutely no chance of leave even in sight!! How depressing and sordid it all is!! [Sordid was the Prince's all-purpose word for anything unpleasant, boring or irritating.]

21st May
Yes darling, I do get fits of depression & very bad ones too, sometimes, though not very often & it's generally on account of cold & wet weather, though not always, of course!!

You naughty little baby, how dare you ask me what sort of a French school I went to & what I learnt there!! If only you knew how far removed I am from what you meant!! Oh!! to get home to you darling is my only desire & all I can think about... I love & adore you to distraction & you know it, sweetheart!!!!

15th July
How tragic the wretched Tsar being shot. What brutes the Bolsheviks are & I don't believe a word about the conspiracy; he was a charming man, though of course hopelessly weak!!

7th August
I've just been smoking one of those "cigarettes ambrees" [amber-scented], I brought over 2 boxes but I haven't touched one for months; it's made me feel so terribly naughty sweetheart and reminds me so much of a certain sofa, in a certain room in a certain house!!!! Oh!! to be back on that sofa again & with any luck I shall soon!!

9th September
I heard a filthy French story in Paris & must give it to you, though please forgive my

"Oh, to get home to you darling is my only desire & all I can think about"



The only known photograph of the Prince and Freda together, with her husband Duddie, right

19th June
Again all the sweet & angelic things you say make me feel so fearfully naughty, darling one, despite being in this office on night duty again!!

I've just had all your darling photos out of their frames and have given each one "un petit

depraved mind!! "Un Boche viola une jeune Française dans le pays envahi; après il a dit: 'Je vous ai torpillé.' Elle répond: 'Oui, mais c'est vous qui va couler.'!!" [A Boche violated a young French girl in the occupied territory; afterwards, he said: "I have torpedoes you." She replied: "Yes, but it is you who is going to sink."] Pretty disgusting darling one... Now I must go to bed.

15th October
I do get black fits of depression as you know & which you've warned me against, but that is only surface depression; underneath or inside there is happiness which is the result of knowing that my idol loves me just a little bit!! That keeps me going.

9th November
I must give you my newest limerick darling:
There was a young lady called Hilda
Who went for a walk with a builder.

particularly when the gunner I told you about plays Wild Thyme, though some of these nasty-minded fellows have concocted a naughty version of the words & the last line runs: "Can't I sow a wild oat in you?!"

Headquarters, Canadian Corps 15th October
I do get black fits of depression as you know & which you've warned me against, but that is only surface depression; underneath or inside there is happiness which is the result of knowing that my idol loves me just a little bit!! That keeps me going.

9th November
I must give you my newest limerick darling:
There was a young lady called Hilda
Who went for a walk with a builder.

He said that he could & he should & he would
And he did & he did & he did
killed her!!
It's a very naughty one, sweetheart, though I know you don't mind & your E is as naughty as ever.

3rd December
Anyhow I shan't return to England before 20th January... if I returned earlier I should have to sit at Sandringham, Norfolk with my family where je deviendrais complètement fou [I should have become completely mad].

King's Château, Lophem, near Bruges 9th December
We had quite a cheery party for the last night & HM was in wonderful form & this trip has done him words of good & he is quite human; it's getting away from Buchkowsky & the real court that does it!! Oh!! that court life, beloved one, that's what's going to hasten the end of it if it isn't vastly modified; people can't and won't stand it nowadays & how well do I understand it & abhor all that sort of rot!!

Headquarters, RAF, Spa 20th January 1919
I'm so miserable darling as I've just got another wire from HM telling me not to return to England, though not to go to Paris

have a job in the world, though mine is a bit—d— one & no mistake & how I loathe it all & all these camouflaged stunts & having to do the dud hero!!

Government House, Ottawa 31st August
I'm afraid I've been dancing again... we had to stop at 12.00 on account of the P of W, not your little boy darling [the Prince had to stop dancing at midnight on Saturdays; his leisure activities on Sundays were strictly limited], as there are occasions when he & his name are 2 different things... but Christ it does infuriate me... they are taking me to church in the morning & they won't let me play golf in the afternoon!! Still I made up my mind to leave England officially & to remain so until I returned...

CPR train 4th September
I wish you had been with me yesterday morning, angel, to give hell to a small flapper [12-14] who had the cheek to throw her arms around my neck & give me a foul wet kiss as I was going to lunch.

7th September
I've got thoroughly attached to Canada & its possibilities, it's the place for a man & if I wasn't P of W, well, guess I'd stay here quite a while!! But alas I am P of W!!

8th September
You can't think what I shall never get completely out of England... I don't feel I shall be able to tolerate a scrap of all that halls when I return in November. I've become the completest democrat, angel.

Government House, Victoria 27th September
Christ what I think of life, sweetie & being caged as I am; the fact that every second of my life since we left London has been public is getting rather on my nerves at last & I feel like a caged animal!!

Shooting Club Hut, Lake Francis, Manitoba 12th October
Christ I am fed up with the job of P of W. It's such a hopelessly thankless one, though I've never been rewarded for all the misery of it as I have in this marvellous Dominion, & don't feel I ever shall again, not that I appreciate it all as I should do!!

18th October
What I resent most of all is that my father gets his own way in a manner of writing out & is completely ignorant & spoiling my chances of making good... he maddens me, beloved one, & I often feel like turning Bolshevik as it's so hopeless trying to work for him!!

York Cottage (F-ck inn), Sandringham 23rd December
I can never tell you how I loathed our putting this morning, angel, although only for a fortnight; 2 weeks out of the short ten weeks that remain before my next f-cking world trip!... I feel so so lost sweetie & as if I'm a guest in a strange house instead of staying with my family; I only feel at home in your house, darling one, and how I'm longing & longing for us both to return to London!!



Extract from the Prince's disconsolate letter of December 23, 1918

Headquarters 38th DIV, near Amiens 5th February
The worst possible has happened, my sweetheart!! HM's letter arrived this morning & he says he doesn't want MOI to return to England until the end of the month. Guess this is the final knock-out blow for thy poor little E & he's just as miserable tonight as he's been in his life!! Gud!! what a sordid & mouldy life mine is, though I suppose this is what I've been kept alive for, though HM didn't fail to rub in the fact that I'm — mourning & so mustn't go to parties in Paris.

Hotel Meurice, Paris 14th February
I pray that when I return to England I shall be able to spend a lot of time with the only little girl I ever want to see!! Of course we must continue to be as "discrets" as we've always been.

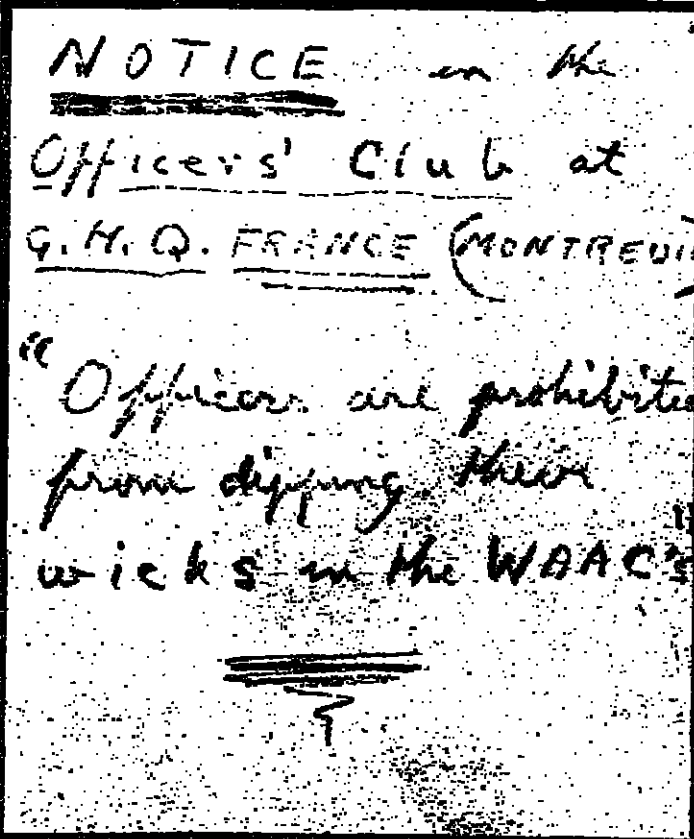
There's a fearful amount of work waiting for MOI in England; all these — officials are just "straining at the leash" to pounce on thy poor little E & he's going to have absolute hell!!

Hotel Meurice, Paris 19th February
I'm in a fever & mad, darling, as these — French papers are full of my engagement to the Queen's eldest girl being as good as official today!! It naturally infuriates me, particularly as the girl has a face like a bottom!!

2nd May
I've had a terribly sordid evening & am not thrilled one atom at having been made a Freemason; Christ, what I think of it all, particularly heavy men's dinners when I have to make a speech.

I must finish this letter tonight... & I'm so afraid of missing the post, which would make me cry & you "thulky", & I just couldn't bear to think my little Fredie was "thulking" when I wasn't there to "unthulk" her!!! What babies we both are sweetheart, but I do love it so. [The Prince writes in "baby talk" throughout the rest of the correspondence.]

My father maddens me, it's hopeless trying to work for him



The "shocking little notice" that the Prince referred to, July 3, 1918



Freda Dudley Ward with her daughters, Penelope and Angie

NEXT SATURDAY
IN WEEKEND
HOW THEY KEPT THEIR ROMANCE SECRET

©Rupert Godfrey 1998
Extracted from Letters From a Prince: The Letters of Edward, Prince of Wales, to Mrs Freda Dudley Ward published by Little Brown (£18.99). Times readers can buy this title for £15.99 by calling The Times Bookshop on (079) 134150.

سكزا من الأصل

12 09 1998

Let summer live on in a purple haze

How to make something last more than one season is the question that fashion has given thought to of late. There is talk of clothes that work from day through to night and of disappearing notions of seasonal dressing.

It started with designer Miuccia Prada, who creates both the label that bears her surname and the younger Miu Miu line. Her collections blur the distinctions between what you wear to work and what you party in: the Prada label offers satin cut into demure dresses for daytime. Miu Miu contains tweed skirts with enough shimmer to qualify as evening wear.

It's not just the fabrics that are proving flexible. Colour — which once strictly adhered to

the rules of dark for cold weather, pale for balmy times — is being shaken up. Those pale lilac and sherbet pink dresses, skirts and tops you bought before summer fizzled out will serve you in the chillier months ahead.

First, use those pinks and purples to uplift other colours. Grey — the colour this autumn, set to appear in every shade from dove to pewter — makes the perfect partner for pastels. Wear a pink top with one of this season's steely-toned long skirts or wide trousers, or slip a delicate lilac dress under a substantial charcoal-coloured coat. There are other, subtle interpretations: Jigsaw's dusky rose bias-cut velvet skirt will go to work if worn with a neat grey sweater, then topped with a masculine

coat, while French Connection's purple stretch skirt, partnered with a crisp charcoal shirt, makes for a smart, subtly sexy option for the office.

Beyond grey, black and navy are obvious contenders, but white also proves a winner with pastels. Top a pink lace-trim slip skirt with a milky white cashmere sweater (try Marks and Spencer), or rethink the grey coat for an off-white version. Fenn Wright and Manson have a fantastic one in wool.

Even the pastel-tinted lenses of this summer's sunglasses will go with this autumn's colours. Don them — and convince yourself that the sun is just around the corner.

MARK HOLGATE
The author is a fashion writer for Vogue



Lilac stretch vest, £21; matching fishtail skirt, £34, Cultura, Urban Outfitters, 36-38 Kensington High Street, W8 (0171-761 1001). Lilac leather fine strappy sandals, £185, Jimmy Choo, 20 Motcomb Street, SW1 (0171-235 0242)



Pale lilac cotton stretch shirt, £10 in sale, (selected stores only) Morgan, nationwide (0171-383 2888). Stretch pencil skirt, £60, French Connection, nationwide (0171-399 7200). Leather sandals, £49.95, Shoe Studio Group (0171-380 3800)



Deep-pink fine-knit top, £49.95, Press and Bastyan (01622 763211). Fine grey wool trousers, £65, All Saints, 1 Great Titchfield Street, W1 (0171-323 3863)



Dusky-pink jersey cowl-neck top, £40, Paul Smith, 40 Floral Street, WC2 (0171-379 7133). Grey fine wool wrap-front skirt, £50, Clements Ribeiro for Dorothy Perkins, 189 Oxford Street, W1 (0171-494 3669)

Waffle and lace stretch dress, £160, Miguelina, exclusively at Browns Focus, 38-39 South Molton Street, W1 (0171-629 0666). Suede mules, £55, Roberto Vanni, Shoe Studio Group, as before

THREE OF A KIND

TOP
Pink frame glasses, £127, Calvin Klein, Optix, 2 Exchange Arcade, 175 Bishopsgate, EC2 (0171-628 0330)

CENTRE
Glasses, £115, Christian Dior Eyewear, Harvey Nichols, Harrods, House of Fraser (01423 538005)

BELOW
Metal frame and lilac tint glasses, £12.99, Oasis, nationwide (01865 881986)

Photographs by **ANNA STEVENSON**
Hair and make-up by **Flynn** for Daniel Hersheson, 45 Conduit Street, London W1 (0171-434 1747)
Model: **Karine**
Styling by **Amandip Uppal**
Shot at Le Vieux Muret, Provence, France (Bookings: 0131-556 3942). Car hire: Hertz Europe (0990 996699)



K
SHOES

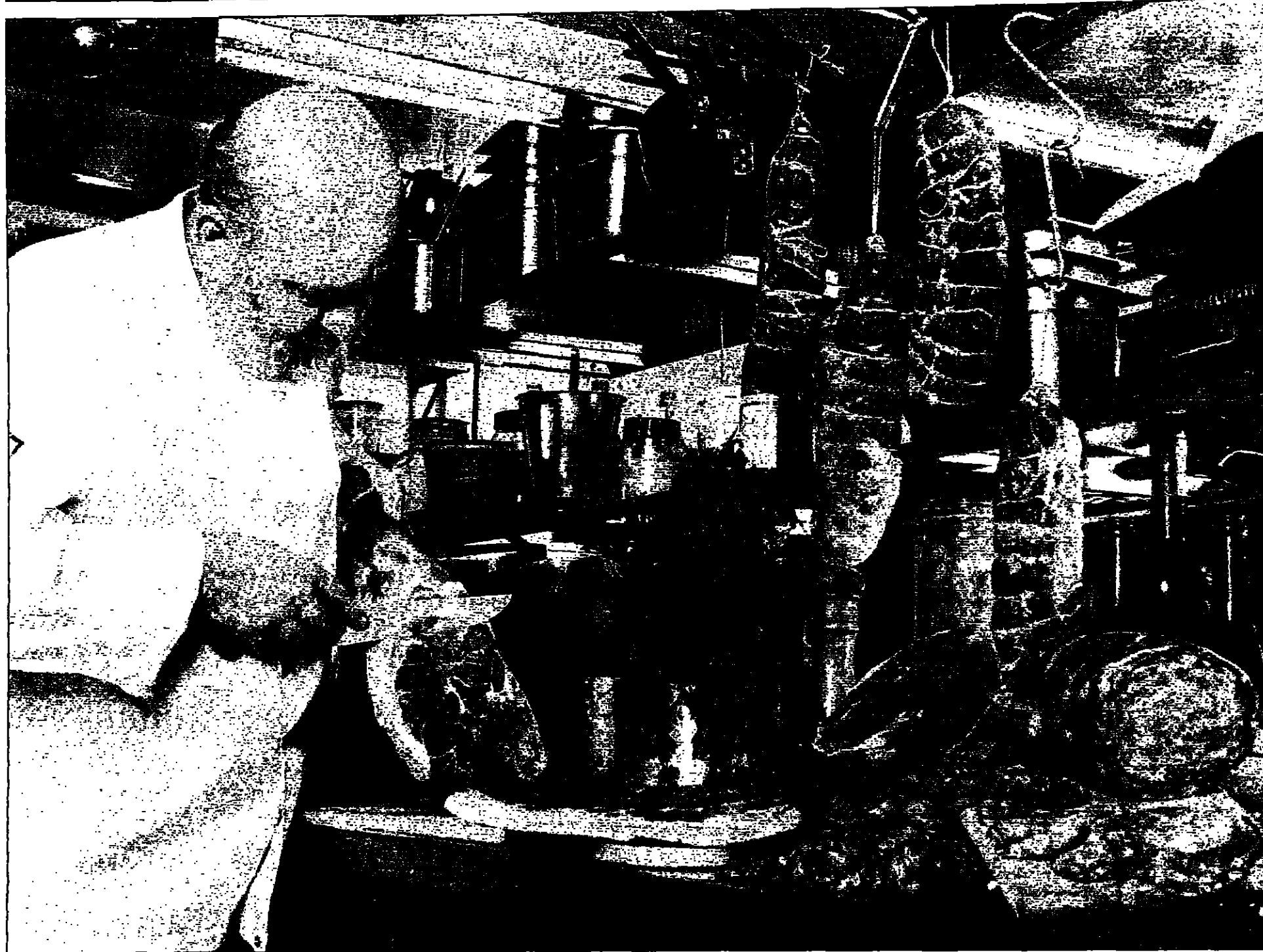
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for £40

Hendry from the new K autumn range offers the ultimate in style and comfort. Every shoe is blessed with the most supple leathers, and is fully leather lined for the most comfortable, glove-like fit.

For further information on the new K autumn range call 0990 665 335.



Mauro Bregoli in restaurant kitchen in Romsey, Hampshire. Although most modern pork meat is, he says, "awful", he produces salami in the traditional Italian manner

Mr Salami's passion for pork

There is a problem with salami. Ever since the rumour started that one of its main ingredients was donkey meat, its popularity in this country has been somewhat stunted. But I try to make such thoughts the last on my mind as I visit Mr Salami — Mauro Bregoli, who calls himself a "country bumpkin", but is the only chef at work in Britain making salami as his fellow Italians would recognise it.

He does it in the most English of surroundings, in Romsey, Hampshire. The Old Manor House looks as English as a wedge of pork pie, but on the other side of the kitchen door lies a proper slice of Italian peasant life.

Bregoli, 58, came to London in the 1960s with a missionary zeal to cook Italian for the British. "The problem is," he explains, "that Italy has no

Italian Mauro Bregoli came to England to educate us on the art of making salami — the authentic Italian way, writes Paul Heiney

In every town it is different. Why do Italian restaurants here serve all the same stuff? It is the same with salami. Salami, in Italy, is a culture. Every farmer makes his own. They will be the same recipe, but they will turn out different. That," he declares with a sigh of wistful satisfaction, "is the beauty of Italy."

There was a lot of pork in his early life at Ferrara, in one of Italy's gastronomically and agriculturally most fertile regions. "It is where not only salami comes from, but Parma ham and mortadella. Lots

of pork!" He licks his lips at the memory of it.

Modern pork meat, he says, is: "Awful. Absolutely awful! You bone it, put it on the slab in the kitchen, and you can watch the water draining out of it. Tasteless."

There was a defining moment 12 years ago when a desperate pig farmer came to Bregoli's front door and announced he was going broke. "... and if I'm going bankrupt, I might as well do it doing something I enjoy."

Thus began an association which altered the course of salami history. "This farmer had the idea of crossing wild boar with an ordinary pig and then with an old breed called Hampshire Blue," explains Bregoli. "We started killing them at different ages, and tasting the meat."

So, in a couple of months Bregoli will start on next season's salami. He may make 60 or more, to a deceptively simple recipe. He will use pork loin and shoulder, which he will mix with back fat in proportions 65 per cent meat to 35 per cent fat, and he will mince it coarsely. To that he will add salt and pepper and thick, rough red wine. Then he bags it in a natural casing (cow intestine). The salami will hang to dry in a garage which is cool, draughty and gets no sun in the summer. It might take a month, or two, or four — "the skill is in knowing when it is ready".



The maestro creating salami that will be hung to mature for up to four months

There is one more vital ingredient. "Every day," he confides, "I stand before my salami and pray that they will not go bad." In the early days, they sometimes did. "I couldn't get the mould to grow on the outside. It protects them. So I bought some salami from Italy and hung it with mine, and now the garage is filled with fungal spores and I no longer have a problem."

We taste. On a large board, he has arranged a fat salami, fully six inches broad and next to it a slab of back fat which he calls "larder" and of which he is very proud. He explains, his mouth salivating, that you

slice the lardo very thin, and drop it on to toasted, coarse bread and allow it to melt before devouring. The salami, sweet-smelling, hardly greasy and covered in a thin layer of that protective mould, tasted like no factory-made salami ever could. It was fresh, despite its age, and tasted more intensely of pork than anything I had ever eaten. Fortified and with an eye on the door, I cheekily asked the question, "Has there ever any been donkey in salami?"

"Oh, yes," he replies nonchalantly. But he hastily qualifies himself. "Not in salami, but in mortadella, yes. Centuries ago, of course. Mortadella is not strictly a salami because it is cooked, and it was made from anything that was not good enough for fresh meat. It was cooked quickly and sold quickly. *Morte* — Italian for death."

If you seek a recipe for a salami feast, I recommend his: You need good friends, good bread, good wine, and conversation. That's salami!

● The Old Manor House Restaurant, 21 Palmerston Street, Romsey (01794 517353).

THE LOW-DOWN ON SALAMI

- Salami-making has long been a common way of preserving meat in European countries.
- In Italy, every region boasts its own speciality.
- In the north, relatively few spices are used; in the south, hot peppers and fennel seeds are common.
- The most popular styles of salami include Milano, Varzi, Felino, Napoli and Branzia and the average fat content varies from 25 to 40 per cent.
- In 1994, nine Russians were saved by eating salami when their plane, carrying a two-ton cargo of the product, ditched on a frozen lake in Siberia.

HENRY HARRIS'S CHEAT OF THE WEEK

I AM very fussy when it comes to chocolate puddings. There are those that I like, such as a steamed chocolate pudding with chocolate custard or chocolate sauce, and those that I dislike, such as chocolate tart or any fruit and choccy combination. The acidity in the fruit creates a bizarre chemical reaction in the mouth that destroys the pleasure of eating either chocolate or fruit.

It is said that so many people will attempt these culinary travesties and then convince themselves that it is a puden worth eating. At the risk of offending those of you who disagree, frankly, you have got it wrong.

I hope my cheat this week will make up for my arrogance. I have two supreme favourites in the world of chocolate. The first is pithivier au chocolat. This is based on the Easter favourite of the French gâteau pithivier, which is an almond frangipane-enclosed pie. The chocolate version quite simply blows it away. All credit for this creation goes to Simon Hopkinson, who developed it in

his pre-Bibendum days at Hilaire. Served piping hot with a big spoonful of crème fraîche it was, and still is, to die for.

My equal favourite is a chocolate brownie (the best recipe is in the Silver Palate Cookbook by Julee Rosso and Sheila Lukins, Ebury Press). Served warm, crusty on the outside, gooey in the middle and with vanilla ice-cream, no more needs to be said. So, on with the cheat, where we are going to combine the two.

Take one gooey brownie per person and squash it into a ball. Then roll out some puff pastry and cut out two discs using a side plate or something similar. The size of the ball will determine the size of the pastry. Place the ball of brownie on to one of the pastry discs and then brush the edge of the pastry with a little beaten egg. Put the other pastry disk on top, crimp the two edges together and trim off any excess. Transfer to a baking tray and brush the top with a little more

egg wash. Make a small hole in the top and then cook in the oven at 180°C for about 20 minutes. This one has to be served with vanilla ice-cream.

I ought to say something about the type and quality of chocolate I use in the kitchen at the Fifth Floor. It is one ingredient where cheap substitutes will not do. Most chocolate sold in the shops has a low cocoa content, which is the vital element. I use a brand with a cocoa content of almost 70 per cent. This has real depth of flavour and delivers that zing of energy that only good chocolate can.

Luckily, there is an answer to the scarcity of top-quality chocolate: join the Chocolate Society (01423 322230). It will introduce you to the world of the real thing, and you will be able to buy a grade of chocolate that will lift your puds to the greatest heights.

● Henry Harris is head chef at Fifth Floor, Harvey Nichols, London SW7



Drink



Jane MacQuitty

The restaurant wine list stands accused of the following: overpricing, underselling and being boring

Why should restaurants get away with charging 300 per cent markups on wine when they know and care so little about the bottles they sell? If this figure sounds absurd, the sorry truth is that this is a standard restaurant wine markup, with very few exceptions. In some places, bottles can be found selling at eight times the price asked in the local supermarket. This may be fine for the expense-account brigade, who pay through the nose for big-name wines to show off to their colleagues and clients. For the rest of us, who view eating out as a treat, this continues to be bad news.

The most annoying aspect of ordering wine in restaurants, as far as I am concerned, is how little the pages of wine lists have changed since I first started writing about wine two decades ago. Yet the food we dine out on has changed dramatically. Ubiquitous fusion cooking, where Pacific Rim ingredients and *esprit* collide with British staples and French style, cannot be

customers will complain. Another chronic deficiency is a lack of tasting notes. Given that the sommelier has chosen the wines, it should not be beyond a decent wine waiter's capabilities to give a short, annotated indication of every wine listed. The most user-friendly wine lists of all should also classify their wines by style, for those who want a short cut, thus light, aromatic whites, or full-bodied, fruity reds could start the novice wine drinker searching in the right part of the list. And why not show off to their colleagues and clients, to make the best of food and wine and bring happy customers back for more?

I also worry about the new trend in restaurants offering large selections of wine by the glass. Brown's Hotel in central London offers no fewer than 120 different wines by the glass with occasional promotions carrying the total to 200-plus. That can only mean a lot of out-of-condition, oxidised wine is being sold. No matter what system the restaurant uses to preserve its wine after

matched by old restaurant wine-list clichés such as soave, muscadet and chablis for the whites and beaujolais, rioja and claret for the reds. Indeed, over the past two years the reason why I have ordered the brazen yet thrilling white-currant and tropical fruit-stashed Cloudy Bay Sauvignon so often when eating out, is that it has been the only white wine listed that could cope with fusion food's exciting but aggressive flavours. If you are eating seared scallops with a mango, lemon grass and lime-spiked *coulis*, the only wine that will survive the attack is a turbo-charged New-World blockbuster.

Not only has the range of restaurants' wines boringly stayed the same, but crimes in presentation continue to be committed. It is still standard restaurant practice on wine lists to leave out vital information to the wine-interested customer, such as the correct vintage and producer's name. A single, predictable description, chablis or champagne for example, is supposed to suffice. It doesn't. Dual vintages are a pitfall, too, for the unwary; there's a world of difference between the superb '95 clarets and the dreary '94s that preceded them. Even when single vintages are indicated, the bottle often turns up with a different date on it. Plenty of swanky restaurants pass off wines with inadequate or misleading details such as these, safe in the knowledge that few

opening, yesterday's wine will have less fruit and flavour, and taste dull and lacklustre when compared to today's newly broached bottle. A wiser route is that adopted by restaurants that limit their wine-by-the-glass selections to six or so, ensuring swift consumption and rotation to keep everyone happy. If this is too expensive or labour-intensive, a good restaurant should offer a long list of half bottles, top heavy on ultra-popular halves such as pre and post-prandial bottles, including dessert wines, that for most diners do the same job.

Of all restaurant and wine-list crimes, overpricing is the one likely to linger in memories and on overdrafts. The standard 300 per cent markup makes ordinary bottles look like treats and expensive bottles, stratospheric. Restaurants often offer cut-price menus, but few stock corresponding bin-end bargains. Most of us know the price of fillet steak, but very few know the exact price of a *petit chateau* claret, which explains why restaurateurs disproportionately tank up wine prices.

Restaurants should encourage their customers to trade up to better wines, and increase sales by adding a standard markup to their expensive wines.

● Next week: Matching food and wine



THE DRINKS THAT TIME FORGOT



Ovaltine

"BECAUSE we all drink Ovaltine, we're happy girls and boys." So chanted the homely Ovaltines on pre-war Radio Luxembourg.

In terms of targeting toddlers with their milky, malty product, the Swiss-based manufacturers were ahead of the pack, appearing also on the opening night of British commercial television in 1955.

Such dedication to the young would make a Jesuit blush, but seems to have paid off for Ovaltine, which retains the loyalty of its customers into old age.

A sip of the multibeverage, first launched here in 1909, brings the devotee back with Prussian rapture to a cosy, fireside childhood, with thick blankets, hot, rubbery water bottles, and dear mother.

To anyone not entranced first time around, however, the prospect of malt extract, cocoa and warm milk is a less attractive one, and the flipside to advertising success is that it must forever be repeated or risk the product rapidly becoming old-fashioned.

In fact, Ovaltine is one of a number of similar drinks given an extraordinary shot in the arm in the 1980s with the introduction of instant versions, sales of which have more than doubled over the last decade. They are easier to make, lower in fat, and I cannot think of another way to get a child to drink malt extracts.

Quietly, and without anyone really noticing, a new generation of Ovaltines is being nurtured.

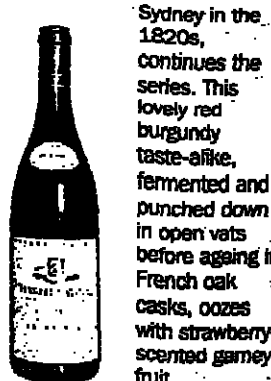
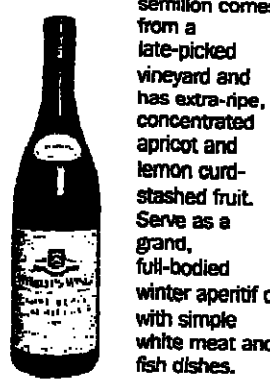
KATE STRONACH

STAR BUYS

1997 Tyrrell's Wines Lost Black Swallow, Hunter Valley, Wimbledon Wine Cellars, 1 Gladstone Road, London SW19, £3.99

1996 Tyrrell's Wines Eclipse Pinot Noir, Hunter Valley, Fellers, £3.99

Tyrrell's has produced this superb new "Individual Vineyards" duo from top parcels of Lower Hunter valley vines. This glorious, juicy



semillon comes from a late-picked vineyard and has extra-ripe, concentrated apricot and lemon curd-stashed fruit. Serve as a grand, full-bodied winter aperitif or with simple white meat and fish dishes.

In the unlikely event that you are still flush with holiday cash, spend it on prestige champagne *cuvées* before they sell out. Majestic Wine is selling two bottles of the magnificent honeyed, toasty 1990 Dom Pérignon for just £49.99 each if you buy two, saving £24, until November 1. At Oddbins the bottle to buy is Krüg, whose Grande Cuvée (Majestic, £66.49) delivers delectable hazelnut biscuit spice and drops £16.50 to £49.99 a bottle.

سكزا من الأهل

سبتمبر 12 1998

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'lightning'

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The cat's whiskers/Sprite

...our principles

A VET WRITES

Q Our 15-month-old boxer, Bert, cut his pad last week. We rushed him to the vet who bandaged the leg and told us to take it off in two days and leave it open. The wound hasn't healed and I'm worried because it's exposed to germs. Should it have been stitched and is it safe to leave it unbandaged?

A A dog's pad consists of dead material so the cut edges will never join together, stitched or not. A new pad has to re-grow from the sensitive, live tissue beneath. Prolonged bandaging creates problems. Dogs perspire only from the tongue and between their toes. Perspiration, blood and serum beneath a bandage leads to a soggy soft foot and is an ideal breeding site for bacteria. The open wound exposes sensitive tissue so Bert avoids pain by walking on three legs. In a couple of weeks he'll start to use his bad leg on carpets or smooth surfaces, but will hop along on rough ground because the new, thin pad isn't an effective cushion. Slicing isn't necessary and the sooner the foot's exposed to fresh air the better.

Q My four-month-old Siamese kitten likes eating woolen socks and her furry bed. She doesn't chew, she eats the material, usually after she's finished her proper food. Will this harm her and how can I break this habit?

A Pure wool is not likely to cause trouble, although too much could lead to constipation just as swallowed fur does in long-haired cats. Wool mixtures can be harmful. Wool-eating can occur in any cat, but it's commonest in Eastern cats such as Siamese. There could be an inherited inclination. It won't be easy to break this habit. Get a water pistol and give her a wetting when she touches the wool. Cats

dislike the smell of citrus fruits. Put her off by offering waste woolies sprinkled with orange juice. Oil of eucalyptus is said to have the same effect. Washing your woolies in lemon-scented powders might protect them. Take her woolen bed away and let her sleep on newspapers. A spoonful of bran on her food will add fibre and fill the space in her stomach she's reserved for wool. Try keeping a dish of dry cat food (and drinking water) available at all times. Nibbling throughout the day instead of fixed meal times avoids the post-prandial wool-eating stimulus.

Q Vets tell us dogs, cats and ponies need regular worming, but this advice doesn't extend to rabbits, guinea pigs or other furry pets. Why not? Don't they get worms too?

A Dogs, and possibly cats, carry worms of the *Toxocara* species which pose a slight risk to humans. The common tapeworms don't threaten us (the only one that does is barely visible to the naked eye). Worm-infested ponies lose condition and may be more subject to colic than those kept worm-free. Worm eggs from one infected animal are picked up by another. Ponies usually live with other horses, and dogs and cats meet their fellows in parks or elsewhere outdoors. Routine worming kills newly arrived worms before trouble arises. Worms are rare in the furry pets, and they don't mix freely with others of their kind. If they are worm-free on arrival, cage isolation prevents re-infection and the need for routine worming.

JAMES ALLCOCK

Write to the Times Vet, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.



Donkeys are led to a platform up to 20ft above a deep water pool into which they jump

Mules will do anything for a carrot

Shocking though it is to some, mule diving is the new attraction at America's state fairs, writes Derwent May

You can just about drive a mule to water, but you cannot make him drink. It seems, however, that you can make him dive.

This is the season of the great state fairs in America, with their competitions for cinnamon buns, blueberry-sour cream jelly, the best macaroni and cheese bake-off and even, in Wisconsin, the world's largest apple-pie.

But alongside these gastronomic pleasures and monsters, there are nowadays more extraordinary attractions — and one of them, which tours most of America, is Tim Rivers's diving mules.

This rancher from Florida has 11 mules, all of which are happy to dive off a 20ft high board into a deep pool of water. Normally, Mr Rivers includes three of them in a show at each fair he visits. They take a good look at the water below them and then dive head first. They get a big round of applause when they clamber out, seemingly smiling, up a ramp, and are each given a carrot as a reward.

Mr Rivers lives on a ranch out in lonely farmland 15 miles from Citra in Florida, which is where he trains his mules. I asked him if it was difficult. In his languorous Southern voice, he assured me that it wasn't. "I only take mules that like water," he said. "Some do, some don't. That's it. I start them low, and then I get them higher." And where did he acquire all his mules? "I just get them where I find them."

Mr Rivers also has a show in which ponies race each other with monkey jockeys on their backs, while a squirrel called Tiggy performs on water skis. But his biggest rivals at the state fairs are probably the leaping llamas.

They were led up to a horizontal wooden pole not far from the ground and encouraged to leap over it. Some refused, some just barged into it. But others went flying over, 28 inches above the ground, and eventually two reached a height of three feet. The winner went over at 40 inches.

It is all a far cry from the Chinese animal carnivals, where stallions fight each other viciously to please the crowds. In the wild, stallions will try to break the knees of their rivals as they fight over a mare. In the Chinese shows, they are goaded on by the presence of a mare in heat. They slash at each other with their hooves and bruise each other but they are held on ropes and carefully prevented from breaking any of their opponent's bones. Their owners want them to fight again.

There is a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Hong Kong, which is protesting against these shows, though without much success. In America, shows such as the diving mules are being attacked by such organisations as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, which is supported by the actress Kim Basinger, but there does not seem to be a feeling that they are too cruel to be allowed.

Nevertheless the protesters harass Tim Rivers a good deal. He in his turn is totally defiant. They try to obstruct his caravan as it travels along the roads, or even dive into the pools before the mules do and defy him to let the animals jump. He told me: "I've never lost to them yet." How's that? I asked him. "I just call the police."

The police are on his side because what he is doing is not illegal. One or two state fairs have turned his show down because of the protesters. But for now, among the cotton candy, the helicopter rides and the competitive local cooks, the dauntless mules dive on.



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12.12.1998

Caring for the granny in your flowerbed

It is time to clear your garden of plants ready for next year's high summer. But make sure you choose a good home for those old friends, writes Stephen Anderton

Getting rid of much-loved old plants is not an easy thing to do. It's like putting your granny in a home. Not very nice, but sometimes it just has to be done. In the past two weeks I have visited several high-summer gardens that made me want to part with square yards of plants from my garden. Not that there is anything wrong with them. There are unusual irises, peonies, lemon-balm and more. It's just that when you see a garden which puts a massive proportion of its effort into the high-summer season, it makes you realise how rich the opportunity for colour is, compared to earlier parts of the season. In a small garden you cannot have your cake and eat it; you cannot have a border at 100 per cent all season long. But you can make sure you make the most of the greatest opportunity — high summer — when you spend most time in the garden.



Plant sales, such as this one in Gwynedd, Wales in May, are a good way to give away or swap plants

So, in September I shall start pulling out the passengers, ready for next year's summer planting. But how do you choose a good home? One way is just to give them away. Friends who are experienced gardeners may be pleased to get hold of a tall, really delicate *Iris sibirica*. Southcombe White, or a form of *Iris spuria maritima* which flowers so generously, like the one Bill Baker collected in the Rhone delta some years ago. Pulling out an established clump of any strong perennial is an opportunity to divide it into dozens of new plants. Grit your teeth, and don't divide it unless you want to give it away far and wide. Think of all the time and effort you would spend on potting up and watering

the offsets. Let the happy recipient of your plant solve the problem of how to handle the excess.

The risk, once you start dividing up clumps of vigorous perennials, is that you will start tucking in a bit here and there, for old times' sake, or to fill a gap. Before you know it, you have a garden quietly but firmly infiltrated by the very plant you intended to send packing. In a few years' time you will have a dozen grannies to deal with. So be brutal now. Get the old dear off the premises, if that is really what you want. Hang on to a tiny piece if you must — an insurance certificate — but no more.

You can always spot a garden where the owner is not brave

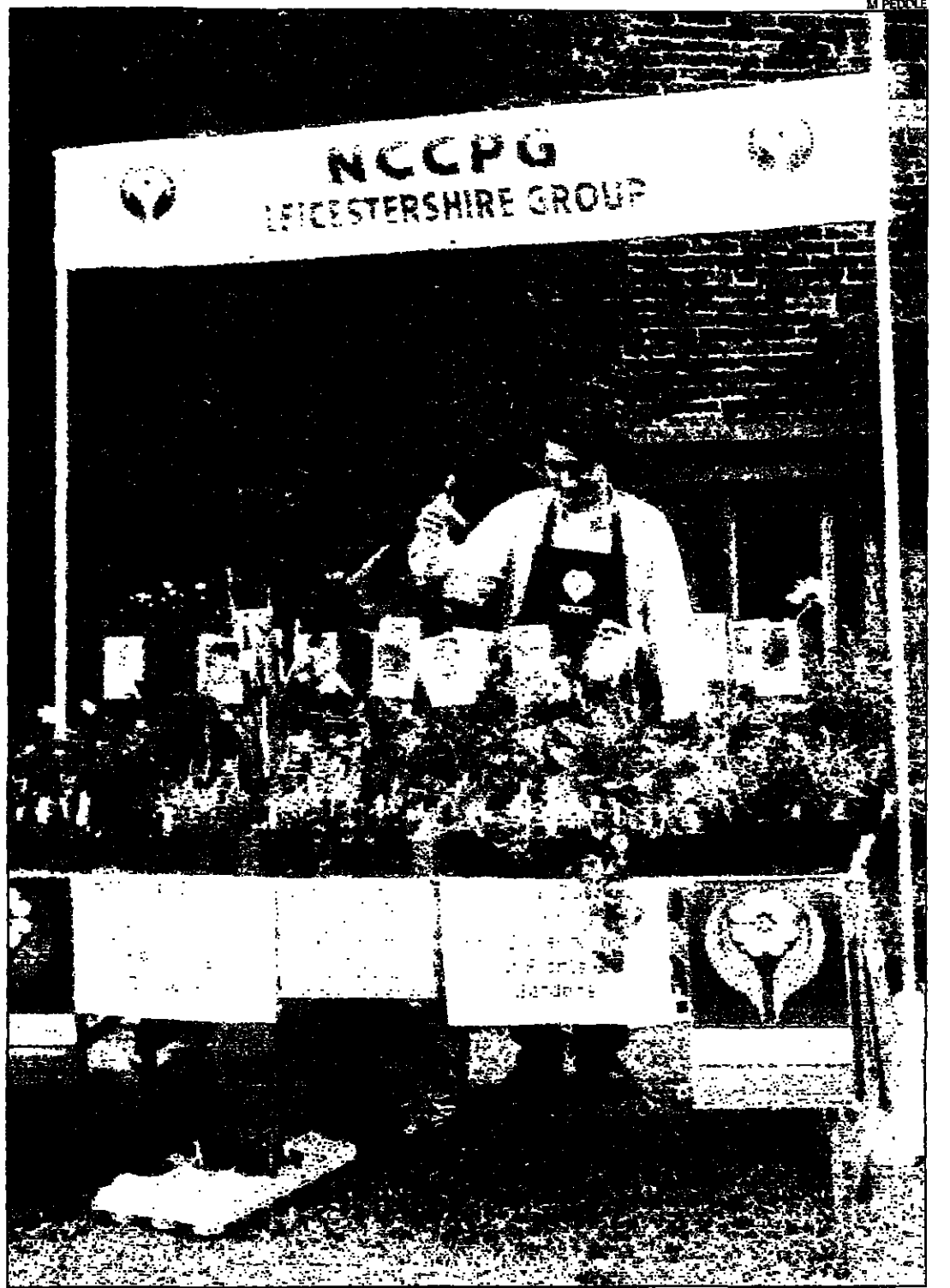
enough to relinquish a plant. Everything is split and resplit until the whole garden looks the same. It is the fast track to boring gardening. A leitmotif or two, to recur throughout the garden, may be a useful anchor, but having everything everywhere is disastrous.

Remember, there is always somebody who will want your cast-offs. When someone starts a new garden, it is useful and economical to be given generous, dividable clumps of strong perennials. Who can do without hostas and hardy geraniums and alchemilla and persicaria and Sedum Autumn Joy, to get a garden started? If you cannot think of anyone in need at that moment, try the local horticultural

club or the WI, or even a note in the post office window. You can make good friends that way. And if you ever want a bit of the plant back again, well, you'll know where to ask. Sometimes the safest way of keeping a plant going is to give it away regularly.

Finding a good home for a really special plant is harder. The way to start is by potting up half-a-dozen pieces, to keep as swaps or to give away. The best new plants find their way between enthusiasts before they appear in the nursery trade. But what about the rest? What if the clump will still divide into a dozen pieces, each in need of a keen gardener?

One way forward is to contact the local NCCPG (National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens) or the Hardy Plant Society. Their sales are a recognised source of unusual plants. The days of bare-rooted lucky-bags at plant sales are gone. Plants established in pots are the order of the day. But if you use a little charm someone may take the whole clump and pot it up for the sale themselves.



A stall at one of the NCCPG plant sales where unusual and hard-to-find plants can be found

■ Make cuttings of roses, using pieces 9in-long and finger thick. Set them two-thirds into the ground in a narrow trench lined with sand, in half-shade. They will callus over in winter and begin to root in spring. If they are rooted by mid-March, move them to final positions. Otherwise wait until the next autumn.
■ Sow lawn seed into well-prepared.



fine soil which has been lightly dressed with fertiliser. Roll lightly when 1in high, and when it has grown again, top it off lightly with the mower set at 2in. Short mowing can commence next spring.
■ When frost threatens, pull up outdoor tomatoes and ripen the fruits indoors. Ripen melons in frames by keeping the temperature up.

Details of regional groups of the NCCPG may be found through: NCCPG, The Stable Courtyard, RHS Garden, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU24 6QP (01483 211465).

■ The Hardy Plant Society, Mrs Pam Adams (Admin), Little Orchard, Great

SALE FACT FILE

Comberton, Pershore, Worcs WR10 3DP (01386 710317).

■ The Suffolk Group and Plant Sale will be held on Sept 27 in Lady Tollemache's garden at Helmingham Hall, nr Ipswich.



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A French trip changed think-tank chairman Joanne Foster's view on gardening, says Jane Owen



Whatever the time of day, Joanne Foster likes to stand outside and breathe in her garden when she gets home from a busy week working in London

Monet makes an impression

ME AND MY GARDEN: JOANNE FOSTER

We are a short pilgrimage from Oxford. We are admiring "Virgil's bay tree", so-called because the huge dome of scented evergreen — 15ft high — flourished from a cutting taken early this century from the bay tree on Virgil's grave. It is in the grounds of Confessor's Gate — the house of Joanna Foster, former chair of the Equal Opportunities Commission — which is close to the spot where Edward the Confessor was born. The pretty village church can be seen at the end of the garden.

This is an informal English garden but it took Giverny, Monet's garden, to turn Ms Foster, chairman of the Independent think-tank BT Forum, from a hater into a lover of gardening. Her garden-mad parents, who tended four acres and a burgeoning kitchen garden near Bristol, put her off.

But almost 20 years ago, while working at Insead, the business school at Fontainebleau near Paris, she and her husband, Jerome, and two children took over a house with a hectare of land which had once been a pretty garden. "It was a Monet-type garden with a Judas tree and pines and a walled area. It had clearly been beautiful so we mowed and cut back to reveal what was there. From that moment I knew I wanted to garden," says Ms Foster.

From there, the Fosters moved to Pittsburgh in the United States, where, in spring, extremes of weather made gardening even trickier than our own spring this year — roasting sun at one moment and thick frost the next. But

they managed to make a garden of bulbs and a lawn. Today, gardening is fitted into a week spent mostly in London but, on Thursday nights when Ms Foster returns from her job, she stands outside to breathe in the garden, whatever the time. "Giverny has been a deep influence," says Ms Foster. "When we moved here I thought, 'if he can do it, so I can do it' so I planted one area with iris and pink roses. The children enjoyed our garden in France and they like this one."

The soil is alkaline and the garden, wrapped around two sides of the house, faces south and west. Leaky pipe has been buried around most of the beds, with mushroom and home-made compost added. "Like most people, I use a lot of Mediterranean plants, because of the water shortage. So the plants get hurt by frost," she adds.

A conservatory stuffed with



Confessor's Gate is set in a very English garden which was inspired by Giverny, owned by the French painter Monet

geraniums houses an old vine that supplies the Fosters with a mass of eating grapes. Around the conservatory is the new stone terrace, with views across the Oxfordshire countryside. Apricots loll against the side of the house, blocking out light

to the kitchen, and lavender crowds around the terrace. The garden is made in rooms although it is informal enough not to seem so. A beech hedge with an arch through the centre leads from the main lawn and mixed large border to a meadow area

with fruit trees that backs on to the church. There is a holy well but Mrs Foster is reluctant to uncover it, because of the pilgrim intrusion that might follow. Instead, well probably dig a separate well to combat water shortages. An arched tunnel forms a

white rose walk running between the meadow and vegetable garden. Behind this is a newly reclaimed area of the garden — once a higgler's muddle of old sheds and concrete but now one of the Fosters' favourite shady spots in which to eat outdoors.

A table sits invitingly under a metalwork gazebo with a few young climbers beginning their ascent: wisteria, golden hop and, behind a table against a south-facing wall, a yellow abutilon.

Opposite, above the Monet-inspired part of the garden, clematis scrambles up an aged apple tree. The Fosters have various garden helpers and divide the main areas of responsibility: hers is the main garden, her husband's the vegetable garden where there are lettuce, beans and a few spears of asparagus.

But despite her love of gardening, Ms Foster has other plans. "I am going to learn to relax in this garden instead of doing things to it all the time."



The garden has a conservatory which houses vines and at the back, through an arch, there is a view of the church



Pleasant views and interesting landscapes



Italianate water garden with canal and bridge at Buscot

■ **Buscot Park**
Near Farringdon, Oxfordshire (01267 240786). Open April to Sept, Wed to Fri and every second and fourth Saturday and following Sunday in the month, 2pm-6 pm. Free to National Trust members or £3.30 (gardens only) or £4.40 (house and gardens). Open today and tomorrow.

THE opening times for this lovely garden are infuriating but it's worth a visit. From a wide grass terrace at the front of the house with a fountain at the centre of a splendid view, the main pleasure gardens are not obvious, below the level of the terrace. A series of walks lead down to a lake with a temple and a ridge on the far side. Each of the walks has a different character, the main one straddling an ornamental canal with water lilies at one end. There are statues and a white garden at the centre of one of the walks with some swinging benches on which to sit and consider this landscape made mainly by Harold Peto. The walled gardens to the other side of the house are monumental pieces of planning. There is an unusual mural depicting members of the Farringdon family in the tearooms.

■ **RHS Garden**
Rosemoor, Great Torrington, Devon. 1m S of Torrington (01805 634067). Open 10am-5pm daily except Christmas. RHS members free, or £4.

FEATURED Rosemoor at the beginning

GARDENS TO VISIT

of the season but today there is the added attraction of an NCCPG plant sale. The design of the garden may not be to everybody's taste but the gardeners are knowledgeable and friendly and the plants, of course, excellent. Rosemoor includes the national collections of *Cornus* and *Ilex*. The garden is in two main parts: the first developed by the RHS when it was given the land by Lady Anne Berry. She created the second, original, part of the garden, the arboretum, which is on the far side of the road from the first garden and



National treasure, Knebworth House, is also the venue for rock concerts

reached by an underground tunnel well designed with a rock landscape.

■ **Knebworth**
Hertfordshire (01438 812661). 28 m N of London, J7 off A1 (M). Open 12-27 Sept, Sat and Sun 11am-5pm. £4 (gardens only) or £5 (house and gardens).

THE PARK at Knebworth will be remembered by some for its rock concerts. But it is also an interesting 25 acres with a Jekyll herb garden designed in 1907 but built only recently. Lutyns' involvement was more direct because he married into the family.

JANE OWEN

STEPHEN ANDERTON'S GARDEN ANSWERS

Q I am delighted with my hedge of lavender 'Munstead', planted last year. It made a splendid show this summer but is now looking past its best. I had hoped to have flowers into the autumn. Should I cut it back and hope for a second flowering? — Mrs J. Moore, Wells, Somerset.

A Lavender does not flower twice, although if you diligently snip out all the first flower stems at the base as soon as they are over, the last stems to open will look fresh again. Once all the flowers have faded, it should be pruned, to keep it dense and shapely for future years. Cut out all the flowered stems back to a point where the first leaves appear.

Q I should like to move my three-year-old *Teucrium fruticans*, as it has outgrown its present position. Should I cut most of the foliage back first, and is

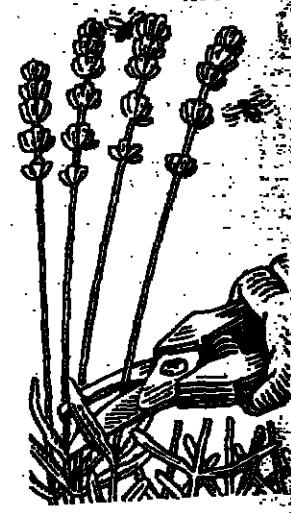


it best done in autumn or spring? — Mrs D. Fawcus, Ipswich, Suffolk.

A This tall germander is not unlike lavender in some ways — aromatic, rangy, small grey foliage, and blue flowers. It is not especially hardy, and can look its best in a cold greenhouse where it will be thoroughly evergreen. Rather than let it roam up to a gangly 6-8ft, it is better to prune it hard every year in late spring to keep it neat. Would this alone solve the problem?

It is not an easy plant to move, and has long, wiry roots adapted to coping with thin dry soils. You could take some cuttings now in the greenhouse, and plant afresh in spring. But if you are determined to move it, do so now. Soak it first, and prune it back by two thirds for stability. Move it with as much root and soil as possible, and water it in well for two to three weeks. Thereafter it needs to spend the winter relatively dry.

Q Where am I going wrong with *Heuchera*? My favourite is 'Palace Purple', but I find that each successive year my *Heuchera*s make a higher and higher



er frosts seem likely, stand them against a wall of the house, and wrap them up for a few days in polythene. Or put them in the garage if you have one. A few days or weeks of low light will do no harm. They can spend the winter dry, and they will withstand a light frost and low light levels much better like this. Waterlogging kills as much as frost.

In May cut them back to 50in, re-plant them, and they will grow again. Alternatively, bring them indoors in April onto a sunny windowsill, and prune them, to get them off to a faster start, and put them out again in late May.

Q I am a very amateur gardener and have grown some white geraniums from seed. They are just coming into flower. How do I keep them through the winter? They are in pots and troughs in my walled town garden. I have no greenhouse, but central heating indoors. — Mrs B. Lovig, Isle of Wight.

A Leave them just where they are, in full sun until the weather gets much colder. Light frosts can be kept off with a temporary covering of polythene or newspaper. You may find that on the Isle of Wight this is sufficient to get them through the winter. If hard-



er frosts seem likely, stand them against a wall of the house, and wrap them up for a few days in polythene. Or put them in the garage if you have one. A few days or weeks of low light will do no harm. They can spend the winter dry, and they will withstand a light frost and low light levels much better like this. Waterlogging kills as much as frost.

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Write to Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9AN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. Enclosures cannot be returned.

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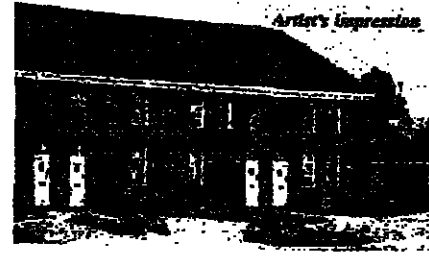
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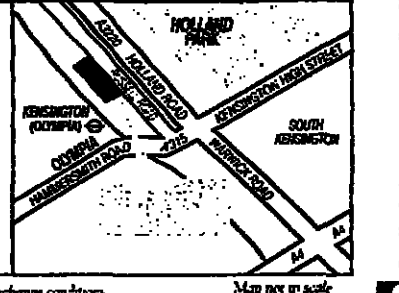
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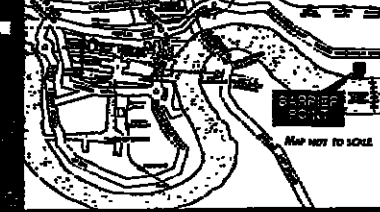
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the cat's whiskers: Sprite

Matthew Parris is camped out in the Catalan Pyrenees, toiling from dawn until dusk on the restoration of his medieval ruin

How the earth moved for me

MONDAY
My stone steps — strange voices
I'm alone. All sense of time has gone and life's proportions shift. There's something in the news about the rouble — but the stone steps I'm building are all that matter now. The work has been painfully slow — two, at the most three, steps a day — and backbreaking. I've moved (I reckon) five tons of stone and rubble. But I cannot lift or manoeuvre a flag wide and deep enough to form a single tread, so each step is a composite of liftable flags and wedges.
I work from first light till dusk, snoozing at noon but hardly bothering to eat — getting thinner but feeling strong. I'm not lonely any more — I'm used to the silence. When family call by I find all the chatter noisy and end up unfocused, staring into space. I'm very happy. Before dawn, after the owls, I heard again something I thought I heard before: a low grumbling as of indistinguishable voices in a downstairs room or a strong current over heavy river-stones. It comes from no direction in particular. I cannot place it.

There is nothing frightening about it: nothing frightening about anything in the air at L'Avenç.
TUESDAY
A letter
The family brought a letter, from Holland. A nice Dutch lady has read *The Times* and wishes to encourage me. She addressed the envelope to me at "Casa L'Avenç". But L'Avenç is a ruin unrecognised by the Spanish Post Office — not an address. And I — not being resident in Spain — am unknown to it.
She also omitted the province. All the *Correos* had to go on were the names of two small villages she mentioned (with question-marks), some 30kms from each other. L'Avenç is in neither. Then she put the name of a town 40km away, and (in brackets) the route-number of a local

road — but L'Avenç is not on it and it is 100km long.
Mistaking the Spanish for "road" she wrote, in effect, "horse race". We often praise the ingenuity of our British Post Office, but there are inspired postmen in Spain, too.
I can guess who this will be: Josep-Maria, a local farmer's son and keen sportsman. He temporarily lost his job as postman when the bureaucrats insisted only a qualified civil servant could do the job.
Catalan commonsense triumphed over Madrid red-tape and Josep-Maria was reinstated. Thank goodness. He

knows my mother, will have seen the envelope and put two and two together. This would be like sending a letter to someone not resident in Sussex, marked "E Wittering? Petersfield? Chichester. Horse race A3, Britain."
WEDNESDAY:
Find water
Hooray! We've struck water. I was assured that there was a water pipe somewhere near L'Avenç and there must be, for there's a cattle-trough I dug and dug for hours where it ought to be — and finished with a big, empty, useless trench.



Then Kim, my brother-in-law, came by, idly lifted a flat rock nearby — and there was the steel pipe, with a tap. Adam opened it and a 30ft spout of water drenched us all. But who cares? It ran rusty for a while, then sweet.
THURSDAY:
To plaster, or not?
An architectural historian points out small patches of primitive plaster clinging to the external stone. A grand house like this, he says, will have been plastered. Almost disappointing — the warm, rough stone was what first drew me to L'Avenç.
An authentic replastering with quicklime, though, would look anything but cold and hard. Should we? Such decisions are far off — the roof is falling in, for heaven's sake.

FRIDAY:
Steps near complete
Wild thyme in walls
Standards slip
Only four or five stone steps to go. Now they go high enough for me to clamber up the rest of the wall to where my caravan is parked.
Superstitiously, I resolve at first to continue going the long way round, saving my inaugural ascent for the moment when the final tread is complete. But resolution slips. I tear wild thyme in tufts from the walls, where it's in the way — and remember the struggle to make it take in the garden at home in Derbyshire.
Later, alone, I start eating things from jars and packets, short-cutting utensils and crockery. I'm hardly Somerset Maugham's Englishman, dressing alone for dinner and reading *The Times* in date order, three months late.
I've only been here for a few weeks and already I'm wandering around in my underpants and drinking from saucepans. Beard growing. Grey! Oh no!

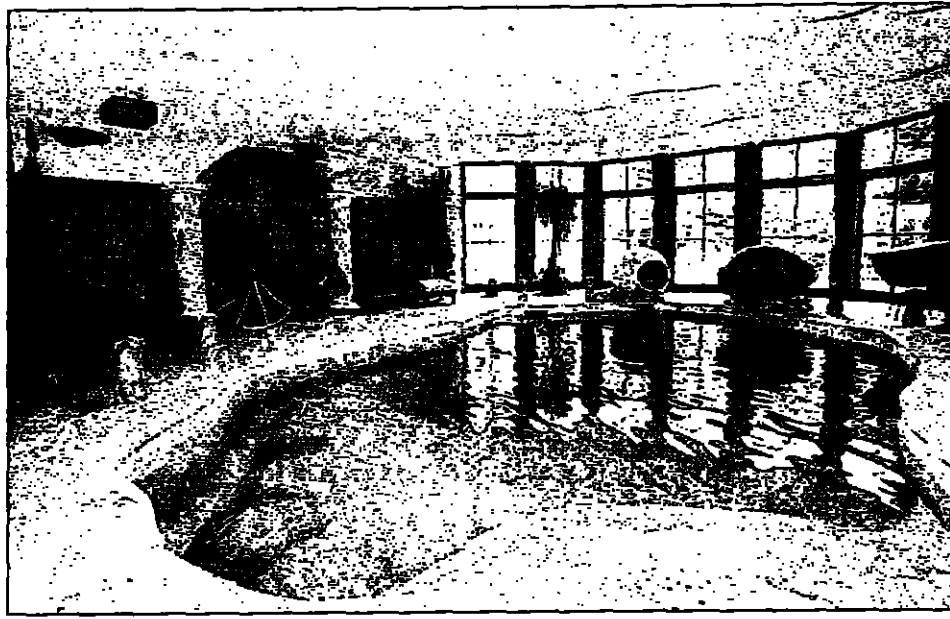
For £416,000 a year this palace could be yours

This may be the most opulent house to let in London, says Rachel Kelly, but there are no takers just yet

RENTS OF THE WEEK

The Andrews' house in Hyde Park Gate is arguably the most expensive house in the country to rent — or it was. When its £10,000 per week price tag for a short let was leaked to the press, Georgina Andrews was quick to take it off the market, saying she wanted "to avoid adverse publicity".
Even her husband, Anthony Andrews, the actor, was surprised at the suggestion from his agent to rent out their London home for £10,000 a week. "I know a lot of embassies might be interested," he commented, "but surely we'll never get that sort of money".
The double property situated in a cul-de-sac opposite Kensington Gardens does have a fine pedigree — it was formerly lived in by Sir Winston Churchill. Prospective tenants would have also enjoyed a baronial-style dining room, a

large garden, five bedrooms and three bathrooms.
Such exorbitant sums are no longer unheard of, however, as earlier this month their agent, Knight Frank, achieved a let of £3,000 a week — rent paid up front for one year — for a house in Chester Square, London SW1.
But for opulence, rather than restrained English style, nothing beats a house in Holland Park that is currently on offer. This is an Arab potentate's palace. Its owner is a man who prefers not to be named, nor his country identified, though there are Moroccan touches to the décor.
We do know that he is a late riser and that letting agents Hampton's do not usually make appointments before 11am. He drives a blue Rolls-Royce which lives in the double-garage in the basement, and is a chocoholic who has truffle-filled dishes in every



The ten-metre swimming pool: a cinema screen lets you watch films while you swim

room. His love of drama and fantasy is in evidence from the cinema screen that descends over the bejewelled mosaic pool and his strength of feeling for his family is shown by the photographs — the only personal touch in the reception rooms.
But he is no electrician. For all their frescos and gold leaf, almost every room had wires left dangling somewhat dangerously. Nor is he an art connoisseur. There is hardly a picture hanging anywhere in the house, except for a framed piece of carpet.

We work from the bottom of the house to the top. Not a wall, fireplace, door or floor of the late 19th-century, white-stuccoed house remains in its original condition. Instead, heavy, sculpted teak double doors have replaced the paneled originals, cream and black, mosaic stone floors cover the floorboards, and vast carved stone surrounds now dwarf the fireplaces.

The house has been extended into the 100ft garden to make room for the ten-metre pool and an adjoining billiard room, the roof of which is a stone terrace overlooking the formal garden. As the agent, Rebecca Haythornthwaite from Hampton's, said, it would be perfect for a party.
The pool is perhaps the house's single best feature. There is nothing poky about it; it takes up nearly the entire width of the 80ft-wide house. Light pours in from the glass doors on to the garden and plays on the coloured stone. The room, with its palm trees, has a real holiday feel. Low-slung chairs and kelim cushions tempt from the pool-side. There is a Jacuzzi, steam room and shower room. I desperately want a swim. It seems extraordinary that, outside, Kensington residents are going about their chores.

On the ground floor to the right of the door is a darkened dining room, painted in gold



The formal gardens of a house that is 'perfect for parties'

with a mahogany table which can seat 14. There is a cleverly concealed server to the rear, where staff can be concealed, and an elaborate Venetian glass chandelier.
To the left is the burnished gold-and-cream drawing room, with ceiling cornicing

and a central table. The room runs the width of the house and overlooks the garden, its window draped in what looks like gold lace. There are five seating areas, each with a sofa draped in red velvet.
Potted orchids, not all of them healthy, collections of



Potential landlords: Georgina and Anthony Andrews



The Andrews' London home, in Hyde Park Gate, could rent for £10,000 a week



The master bathroom, complete with claw-footed bath and chandelier

enormous candles, and displays of willow branches decorate the ornate desks and side tables, while tapestries adorn the walls. The room is lit by chandeliers. Rather unnervingly, you can hear the whoosh of water pouring from the urns in to the pool down below.

Upstairs, the caramel marble staircase leads to a surprisingly delicate duck-egg-blue bedroom that has been made by knocking the front three rooms into one. The double bed is covered in a gold lace bedspread. There is an en suite bathroom with a claw-footed bath, a frosted glass shower and his-and-hers cupboards — although in any other house they would qualify as rooms.

On the second floor there are three more bedrooms, all with bathrooms, their cool modern sophistication and pale walls somewhat undermined by the teddies which fill the fireplaces. One bath is decorated as a boat. Another bathroom seems to be part of a Greek temple. In all there are nine bedrooms and seven bathrooms, plus a study, snooker room, two cloakrooms, kitchen and breakfast room. Staff rooms are tucked under the front steps and in a cottage at the end of the garden.

This is a house for serious entertaining. The American Ambassador considered renting it while his own house in Regent's Park was being redecorated, but decided on a house that backs on to Holland Park instead. But its price tag could dissuade even the wealthiest of renters.

In the same area, Tom Cruise is reputed to have spent £5,000 a week on rent, and Pierce Brosnan rented for £4,000 a week in Hampstead. But after a month only four prospective tenants have visited the house, and none have yet signed up. Perhaps the annual £416,000 rental is too high, although the owner is said to be open to negotiation.
That old trick of coffee beans in the oven might help.

Agents: Rebecca Haythornthwaite at Hampton's International (0171 932 9322) Knight Frank (071 629 8171)

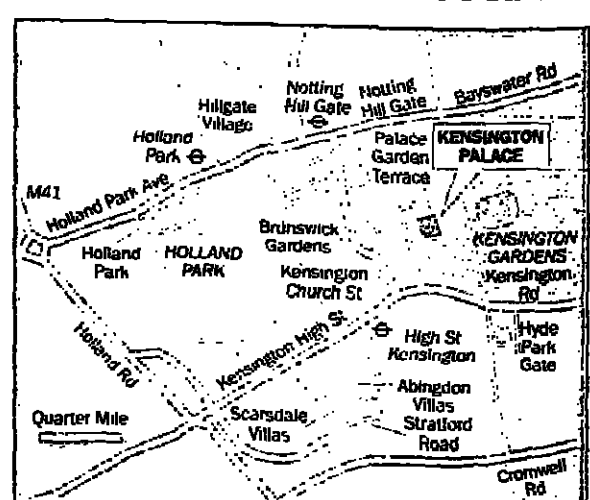
MARKET COMMENT

THE WESTERN side of central London — Notting Hill, Kensington, Holland Park — ranks among the most desirable corners of the metropolis. With impressive architecture, a sprawl of trendy shops and restaurants and excellent Underground connections to the West End and the City, it's not difficult to understand why accommodation here commands a substantial premium. You do not, however, need to spend anything like £8,000 a week, or even a tenth of that sum, in order to be where the action is.

Decent one-bedroom flats for rent on the books of Hampton's International start at about £300-£350 per week, with two-bedroom apartments available for anything between £400 and £1,000 and modest three-bedroom houses from about £750 per week. A bargain! Not really, when you think that £750 per week amounts to about £3,000 a month — well beyond the reach of most domestic renters. But this is a part of London where professionals on corporate postings dominate the rental scene. There are a few British families renting while they find somewhere to buy, a scattering of young professionals who have not yet embarked on the property ladder and even some particularly well-heeled students; but according to Hampton's International, 80-90 per cent of clients are from overseas. America, France, Switzerland and Germany are among the most common nationalities, and most of them are here on corporate lets.

For the sort of money they are willing to pay, however, they want immaculate places — power showers, classy interiors, space, on attractive roads close to the Tube. "They have very high expectations and interesting-scruffy isn't acceptable any more," says Hampton's spokeswoman. Once you start looking at serious houses, the rental sky is the limit. Well, it's £8,000 a week. But you could easily pay £2,000 per week for a decent-sized family house. Hampton's sites "a nice five-bedroom family house" for £3,250 per week and a sumptuous eight-bedroom mansion with offstreet parking for £4,800 per week. That's £20,800 per calendar month. Understandably, its power showers are "top of the range". Roads in the vicinity particularly popular with renters include Palace Garden Terrace, Holland Park, Brunswick Gardens, Hillgate Village and Abingdon Villas.

FAITH GLASGOW



HOME SWAP

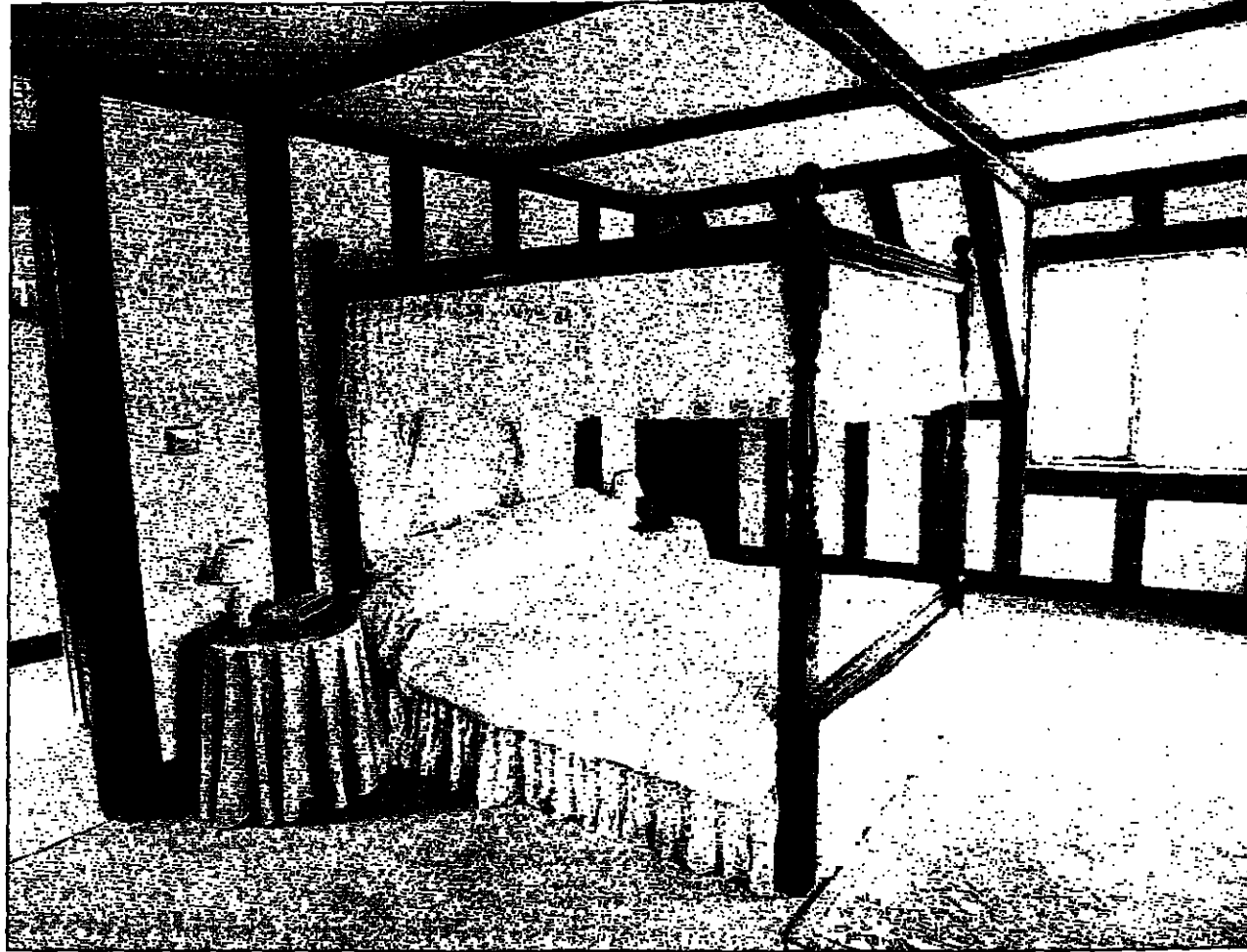
PRICES are moving up in London's Belisize Park, but slowly. The market for flats costing less than £250,000 is still active say estate agent Foxtons, but buyers are becoming more selective. A high-ceilinged one-bedroom flat in a stuccoed house costs from £140,000; two-bedroom garden flats from £200,000 to £300,000.
Buyers from London are driving up prices in Norfolk, say Savills. The north Norfolk coast has seen prices gain of up to 15-20% for period houses. Brick and flint cottages from Bleskeney to Hunstanton are priced from £80,000 to £120,000 for three bedrooms. Period rectories with up to eight bedrooms and five acres of land fetch from £300,000.
High prices in the Cotswolds are driving London buyers to the Welsh border, where prices are 20 per cent lower. Farmhouses with land in the Usk Valley, between Aberystwyth and Crickhowell, are priced from £150,000 to £250,000, say Knight Frank.

£275,000
This two-bedroom, two-reception room, second-floor maisonette in Belisize Avenue, London NW3, is on offer at £275,000 (Berham & Reeves, 0217-794 1101)

£275,000
The same sum (£275,000) will buy Scarnbeck House, an impressive Grade II listed six-bedroom 16th-century house, overlooking farmland, at Eppingham near Byesham, about eight miles from the north Norfolk coast (FPDSavills, 01603 229229)

£295,000
For a little more you could buy Cytaddy-Dawr, a 53-acre smallholding run as a stud farm. It has a four-bedroom 18th-century farmhouse and outbuildings (Knight Frank, 01432 352285) CHERYL TAYLOR

Advertisement for Parley & Co. featuring various real estate listings and contact information. The text is partially obscured and difficult to read due to the image quality.



Tony Gray and fiancée Paula Finn outside their self-build home which took them less than a year to complete — with help from family and friends, and their bedroom with the four-poster bed which Tony made

Built with their own hands

With the aspirations of first-time buyers so high these days, many are forgoing the easy route on to the housing ladder and opting for self-build — and savings of at least a third. Last year, self-builders — many of them first-time homeowners — designed and constructed more than 30,000 homes. They were prepared to give up their free time for at least a year (and often longer), to build a house which would be out of their financial league were they to buy the same home already built. Some banks and building societies offer specially adapted mortgages providing the money as work proceeds, but they prefer that at least 50 per cent of the plot price has been saved. There are specialised land-finding agencies such as Landbank Services which charges £30 for a month's list of plots available in any three

counties and has about 3,000 on its database. The Scottish Self-Build Advisory Service has about 1,000 plots for sale. Each month the specialist magazine *Build It* lists some 1,000 plots from all over Britain. Before exchanging contracts it is essential that prospective purchasers obtain a surveyor's report and legal advice regarding planning consent. And they need to be prepared for the project to take a lot longer and cost more than originally bargained for. Donald Price, 28, and his wife Sally, 24, live and work in the Gloucestershire village of Churcham in a two-bedroom dormer-style bungalow they built themselves. They wanted to stay in the village with their family and friends and self-build was the only viable option. "There are no small flats in Churcham," says Mrs Price, "and we didn't want a mortgage round our necks for years, and renting defeats the

More people are choosing to build their own homes, and saving up to a third of the cost — but it can be a long and frustrating process, says **Diana Wildman**

‘The house cost us £69,000 to build and was recently valued at £170,000’

object. We bought the half-acre plot at auction five years ago for £38,500 when we got engaged and moved in last August — on our wedding day. "There was an old asbestos riddled pre-fab on the site which we had to dismantle ourselves, with lots of help from Donald's father who supplied the skips, and we salvaged everything possible from it including all the wood and hardcore which is now part of our new home. We were on a tight budget. "Although we wanted to lay the foundations it proved impractical, but my surveyor uncle marked and pegged out the house as a present. We used local builders to lay the

foundations and do the brick-laying and roofing, but once the basic shell was up we did everything else ourselves. We installed the electrics and fitted the kitchen and bathroom. "I must admit, at one point I thought we would never fin-

ish. But suddenly, last summer, it dawned on us that we had a home. All our spare time had been spent on it and we paid for it as we went along. "Our families were fantastic, but Donald and his father did all the hard graft. My deal was to supply all the furniture and fittings. I accumulated a lot over the five years and we received lots of useful wedding presents." The total cost of the plot and all buildings and fixtures came to around £90,000. Its current valuation is about £160,000. However, self-build does not have to take five years. Tony Gray, 29, and his fiancée Paula Finn, 27, moved into their three-bedroom cottage with double garage in less

than a year from start to finish. Mr Gray is a carpenter — an advantage — and he made all the doors, kitchen and bathroom units, wardrobes, beams, a four-poster bed and a grandfather clock. He reckons that saved them well over £10,000. "Paula was living with her family and I was in a small flat in North London when we first seriously considered self-build after visiting the Self-Build Homes Show at Alexandra Palace in 1994," says Mr Gray. "We spent the next two years saving to buy a plot and paid £36,000 for a spacious one in Royston, Hertfordshire, in August 1996. We then got a mortgage from the TSB for a further £36,000 which was released in two stages. "In no way could we have dreamt of owning such a lovely house without building it ourselves and I am amazed how smoothly it went, as I had allowed two years to complete.

We have a close friend who spent all his free time helping us and I, in turn, am about to help him as he has decided to build his own home now. "We did almost everything ourselves as we were on a very tight budget. There was more stress in taking the responsibility for keeping the whole scheme running and the two months when the brickwork and the roof were going on I was very stressed. Paula and I had discussed the possibility of falling out but we didn't. "Luckily the weather didn't hold us up. It seems unreal that we created our first home together and we moved in last September. The total cost came to £69,000 and it was recently valued at about £170,000." ● Scottish Self-Build Advisory Service (01908 699889); Build It magazine (0171 963 9423); the ninth National Self-Build Homes Show is at Alexandra Palace from September 17-20 between 10am and 6pm.

Diary of a househunter

MONDAY
We are getting desperate about the flat. Despite daily harassment of agents and lawyers, we still have no date for completion.

TUESDAY
I speak to a weeping friend in Islington, North London, who is selling her one-bedroom flat. The flat she was going to buy in Hackney has been valued at £20,000 less than her offer. She is selling her place anyway for £133,000. She bought it two years ago for £96,000.

WEDNESDAY
We are ready to exchange. We have the £5,000 deposit with the solicitor, the bank is poised to hand over the remaining £97,000 and we sign the final papers. Still no word from the old lady who is selling to us.

THURSDAY
It is getting scary. We discover the old lady is dithering because the place she is buying in Surbiton has subsidence. Meanwhile, we are home-



less and commute from Portsmouth to London.

FRIDAY
We cannot bear another weekend of not knowing. We bypass the middlemen and telephone the old lady. "I may or may not buy the flat in Surbiton," she says. "But I have decided to sell to you." Thank heavens for that, dear.

EMMA MAHONY
● Next week: success!

THE TIMES

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<http://www.the-times.co.uk> CHANGING TIMES

Rachel Kelly's

Week

سكزا من الأهل

Rachel Kelly looks at the New Renters: young, urban professionals who are upsetting the locals with their rural retreats

Weekends away with no strings

A new breed is moving into the nation's cottages and country houses. They are not to the manor born, nor do they wish to open the village fête or hold the local WI meetings. Instead, they are an army of urban, professional, thirty-something tenants now renting weekend houses on rural estates or even the stately home itself.

These new landed gentry wish to deadhead the roses, but not to resurface the drive; to enjoy the views, but not to mend the roof or wade through the accounts. But while they enjoy all the advantages of country life without the responsibilities of ownership, some locals are enraged by these New Renters, the worst outrage reserved for those who rent holiday cottages.

Neil Sinden, from the Council for the Protection of Rural England says: "In certain parts of the country, and often the most attractive and heavily visited parts, the scale of the use of second homes, whether through renting or ownership, can cause problems for the maintenance of essential local services. Shops, post offices and public transport can all suffer."

Times reader Jean Gollop says locals are dismayed by yet another property on the south Devon coast, for example, being used for holiday lets. The house is semi-occupied by non-residents who make scant use of local shops and schools. She quotes a local struggling pubman:

"They come in a few times a year, show me off to their friends, call me by my Christian name to show how well they are integrated and even expect me to know their preferred tipple." Drinkers take note.

Another reader writes from Northwich, Cheshire, to lament the "distress caused to the permanent residents by the people who rent holiday homes".

"I lived next door to a holiday cottage in Sidmouth, Devon. Noisy families were commonplace, 12 people squashed into tiny two-bedroom accommodation. It was useless to complain to the owners as they were raking in the money."

The past decade has seen a quiet revolution in the country rental market, according to new research from Strutt & Parker which examines the fate of five large rural estates and maps the emergence of these New Renters. In 1989, only five per cent of the properties let on the estates were collecting market rents. Now, the proportion has grown to 39 per cent. This is largely thanks to the 1988



Alison Dean in her country house: "We liked the idea of avoiding the responsibility of ownership"

"If we tire of it, then we simply give a month's notice and drive away"

Housing Act, says Ralph Crathorne from the agents. "The old acts such as the 1977 Rent Act exposed a landlord to the risk of losing vacant possession of a property for a number of generations, and imposed restrictions on the rent that could be charged. It was often not worth renting out the property. They received a fraction of the open market value of their property."

But the 1988 Housing Act created assured shorthold tenancies, which were simpler for tenants and landlords to use, and which guaranteed the landlord vacant possession at the end of the term.

"In the past, when a cottage became vacant at the end of a tenancy, the threat of losing security of tenure and the poor return on investment meant that the only realistic solution was to sell, leave the building vacant, or in extreme but by no means unusual circumstances, demolish it," says Mr Crathorne.

Now landlords are letting rather than selling. Between 1986 and 1992, 82 per cent of the 34 property sales on the five estates took place. After

1992, there was only an average of one property sold each year. Alison Dean and her husband Peter are classic New Renters. They escape to a three-bedroom cottage in Oxfordshire at the end of the working week: Alison works for an advertising agency and her husband is a fund manager in the City.

"Earlier this year we realised we had done almost all the work we intended to do on our house in Fulham, and the thought of hot London weekends did not fill us with joy."

"So we decided to look for somewhere outside London and the first, and easiest, decision was whether to buy or rent. We decided against buying for several reasons: we did not want to make that kind of financial commitment; and we suspected prices were near their peak and did not want to buy at the top of the market. Finally, we liked the idea of avoiding the responsibility of ownership," she says.

"We had no preconceptions about where we wanted to rent, but have several friends in Oxfordshire. One talked to an agent on our behalf and

it turned out that a small three-bedroom cottage in a nearby village was coming free."

Top destinations for New Renters are the Cotswolds, parts of Devon, the area north and east of Cirencester, and anywhere with good access to the M4, the M40 and the A40 or top sporting events such as Badminton, Cheltenham races or Cirencester polo, says Amy Boor-Roberts of Knight Frank's Cirencester office. In Hampshire, people are attracted to the Solent and the New Forest.

But the road to rural bliss does have drawbacks. Most properties outside London are rented unfurnished, so curtains and carpets may not be included.

There is an extra set of bills, too. The Deans had to pay one month's rent in advance as a deposit, and pay for water rates, council tax (which is halved on a second property), oil for central heating and hot water, and electricity.

"We drove up one Saturday — it takes one-and-a-half hours door to door — to have a look and fell in love with the cottage and its location," says Mrs Dean.

The Deans took on the cottage for an initial six months on an Assured Shorthold Tenancy. They have now decided to extend the lease. They pay £500 a month in rent.

To offset the financial



The Deans' three-bedroom cottage in Taston, Oxfordshire

commitment we have an agreement with the landlord that if the lease is taken away within three years, a proportion of the cost will be repaid; however, if we do not continue the tenancy we forfeit the money."

Leases can vary in terms of the responsibility of tenants. The Deans must take care of the garden. "This is no small undertaking but we have found a local gardener to help regain a semblance of order."

The greatest blessing, say the couple, is that they are not responsible should the house need fixing.

"One Sunday we had a badly leaking pipe, which obviously needed attention. So we simply drained the system, locked the door and returned to London. My first task on Monday was to hand over the problem." Renting from an estate also has its virtues. "There is a resident carpenter for example, and a timber mill where we plan to buy logs. The agent is well known and is a useful source of information.

"Maybe one day we'll tire of it, but

at that point we'll simply give a month's notice, wave goodbye to the cows and drive away."

Property agents have spotted the trend and have set up new country rental offices.

Lane Fox has them in Basingstoke and Princes Risborough. It says that a three-bedroom cottage in the Buckinghamshire areas of Brill, Thame and Aylesbury would cost from £650 to £900 a month in rent.

Sarah Cull, from lettings at the Lane Fox Basingstoke office, says a three-bedroom cottage in the area would cost about £900 a month; £800 a month would get you a two-bedroom property. Houses with five bedrooms and a big garden, would start at £2,000 a month.

Ms Cull suggests choosing a property managed by an agent. "Tenants, especially weekenders, prefer this despite a 15 per cent charge. It is easier and less emotionally involving to make requests or comments to a third party than the owner."

SMART MOVES

GLENCASSLEY, the Scottish estate of the founder of the Royal Shakespeare Company, CHARLES FLOWERS, is for sale. Mr Flowers purchased the estate in 1975 and is the great-uncle of the current occupant, Mrs Evadne Lloyd. The sale is being handled by Knight Frank and local agents Bell Ingram.

CHRIS EVANS, owner and disc jockey of Virgin Radio, was spotted looking at a penthouse in Saffron Wharf at St Saviour's Dock, east London. Mr Evans may be looking for a way to spend his £500,000 deal he recently made with the BBC for two prime-time series.

THE former studio of JOHN CONSTABLE in the village of East Bergholt, Suffolk is for sale at £175,000. Now an office, the building is Grade-II listed and a mile from Flatford Mill, at the heart of Constable country. The agent is Fern Wright's Ipswich office.

FRANK WILLIAMS, boss of the Formula One racing company is selling his house, Stargroves, in Newbury, Berkshire. The house was once owned by MICK JAGGER.

CHESTERTONS is selling a flat in Belvedere Court, Hampstead, north London, which was the birthplace of American talk-show host JERRY SPRINGER. Another resident was the *EastEnders* and *Carry On* star BARBARA WINDSOR.




Just looking: Evans


THE TIMES
 DIARY OF A HOUSEHOLD
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 ICE

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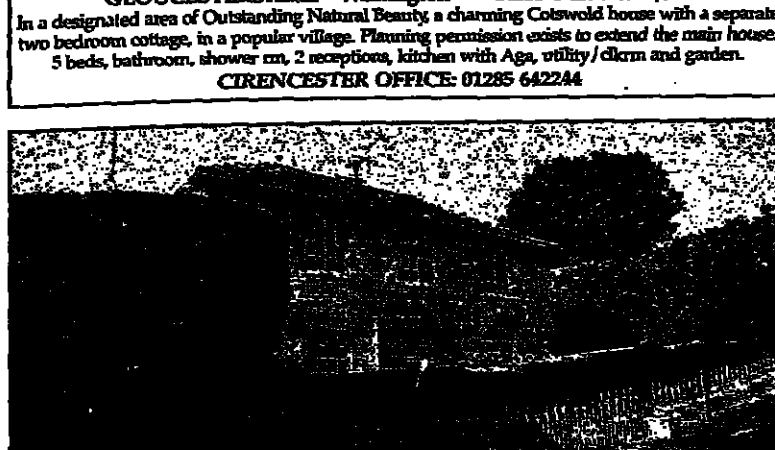
GLoucestershire - Wiltington Price Guide: £450,000
In a designated area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a charming Cotswold house with a separate two bedroom cottage, in a popular village. Planning permission exists to extend the main house. 5 beds, bathroom, shower rm, 2 reception, kitchen with Aga, utility / cloak and garden.
CIRENCESTER OFFICE: 01285 642244




WILTSHIRE - Malmesbury Offers in Excess of £300,000
A large part of an imposing Victorian manor house in an idyllic position. 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, reception hall/dining room, kitchen, utility room, cloakroom, garage and parking. Gardens and grounds extend to approximately 0.44 ha (1.09 acres)
CIRENCESTER OFFICE: 01285 642244



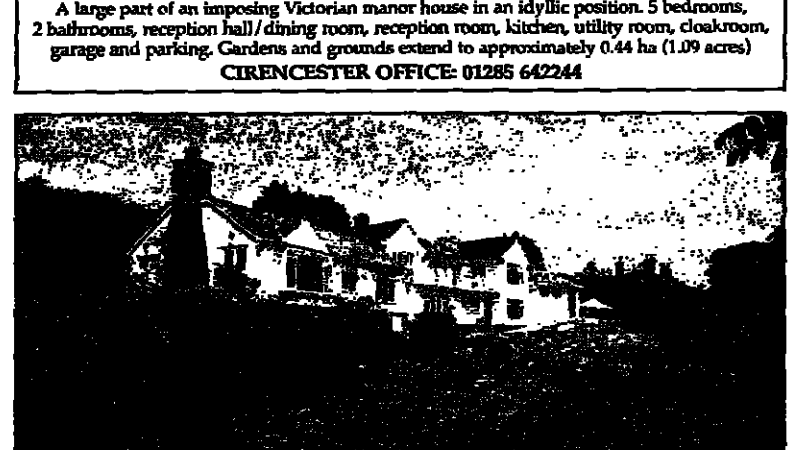
HAMPSHIRE - Old Bursledon Price Guide: £445,000
In a picturesque village, a superb contemporary house with views down the River Hamble and across the Solent to the Isle of Wight. 6 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen with sitting/dining areas, 2 cloakrooms and a garden of about 0.3 acres.
WINCHESTER OFFICE: 01962 863131



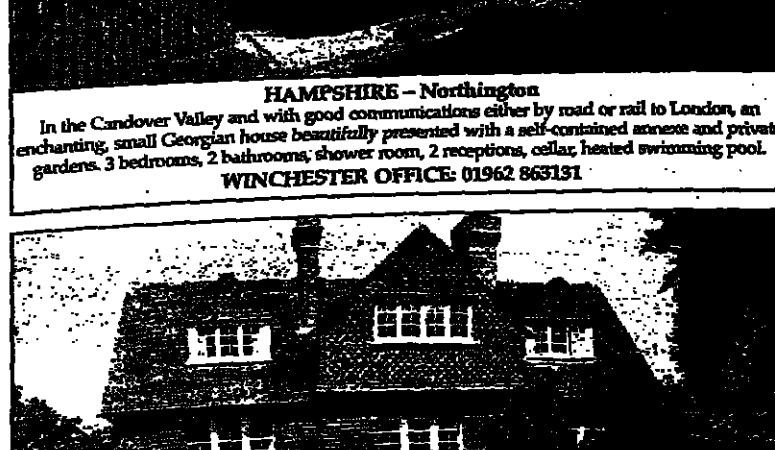
HAMPSHIRE - Northington
In the Candover Valley and with good communications either by road or rail to London, an enchanting, small Georgian house beautifully presented with a self-contained annex and private garden. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room, 2 receptions, collar, heated swimming pool.
WINCHESTER OFFICE: 01962 863131



OXFORDSHIRE - Minster Lovell Price Guide: £850,000
An unspoilt residential estate, near Minster Lovell, on the edge of the Cotswolds. 5 bedroom farmhouse with staff flat, gardens and tennis court. Range of traditional barns incorporating a pair of holiday cottages (with planning for 3 more), paddocks and woodland. About 24.26 acres.
OXFORD OFFICE: 01865 311522



SURREY - Spoon Price Guide: £575,000
In a conservation area, an impressive, late Victorian house with an attractive garden. 5 bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, dressing room, playroom/bedroom 6, 3 reception rooms, hall, cloakroom, kitchen, utility room, collars, detached garage, pond and about 1/3 of an acre.
JOHN D WOOD & CO 0171 493 4106 PATRICK GARDNER & CO 01372 271880



THE LANTERNS, BRIDGE LANE SW1L Freehold
A spectacular, spacious apartment on three floors within an exclusive development of an old school house close to Battersea Park. 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, shower, study/bedroom 5, reception room, gallery dining area, separate reception area, kitchen, cloakroom, 2 lofts and parking.
BATTERSEA OFFICE: 0171 228 0174



EAST SUSSEX - Forest Row Excess £750,000
An historic, timber framed manor house, Grade II listed with a mature garden, in open countryside and within walking distance of the village. 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms with planning consent, heated pool, garages, outbuildings, grounds of about 2 acres.
HEAD OFFICE: 0171 493 4106 & EAST GRINSTEAD OFFICE: 01342 326326

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Sisters and Daughters, to which Susannah and her sister were introduced by their mum

The actress with great presents

When she's not acting, Susannah Harker indulges a passion for buying gifts, says Stephen Geraint

my favourite shop

Susannah Harker is not an easy actress to pigeonhole. As Mattie Storrin, an ambitious young journalist, she was thrown off the roof of the House of Commons by Francis Urquhart in *House of Cards*. As the preternaturally good Jane Bennet, she drove off in a coach with her new husband Mr Bingley in the BBC's reworked finale to *Pride and Prejudice*. Now, she is about to live unhappily ever after as Yelena in a new production of *Uncle Vanya* at the Gate Theatre, Dublin, but only after playing a vampire-thwarting haematologist in Channel 4's modern-day gothic drama, *Ultraviolet*. "Make sense of that" is the challenge thrown down by her ever-expanding curriculum vitae.

Ms Harker couldn't be happier with such a variety of roles. "I have been lucky because I don't think people identify me strongly with a particular part. Perhaps it was the strong contrast between *House of Cards* and *Pride and Prejudice*. I don't know... somehow I've managed to avoid it."

Her off-stage life is more predictable, revolving around her husband and fellow actor, Iain Glen, their three-year-old son, Finlay, and her two serious passions in life — clothes and presents. The latter two she indulges at Sisters and Daughters, the shop she encountered when she was 14 and her mother, the actress Polly Adams,

shopping mode when I come here," she says. Her previous visit was a couple of days earlier to find a birthday present for her mother, her next cruelly postponed by her imminent departure for rehearsals in Dublin. "I have a passion for clothes and love what's here — they fit in with my style and who I am. They're relaxed, stylish and unpretentious — just what I'm drawn to."

"It's very difficult to sell beautiful, expensive clothes in the suburbs," explains Mrs Reason, "so the kind of clothes I sell are things for people to wear all the time. They are smart and, three years on, they will still be smart. They must also survive having Ribena tipped on them."

There are much worse things than Ribena flying around in *Ultraviolet*, which has been made by the same company that produced *This Life* for BBC2. "I play a haematologist, who's a specialist in the particular evil we are dealing with here," explains Mrs Harker, giving nothing away. "There's a lot of science but a lot of emotion as well." There's also the strange coincidence that Ms Harker (it's a stage name, but taken from

her grandmother) is a direct descendant of Joseph Harker, friend of Bram Stoker and the inspiration for Jonathan Harker, the first vampire hunter.

Ms Harker spends much of the series wearing a white lab coat, but other actors' parts have occasionally brought Mrs Reason's clothes to a wider public. "You wore one of our cardigans in that play at Greenwich," recalls the proud proprietor. "I wore several of them," replies Ms Harker, pointing out that she had to age from 16 to 40 in Wendy Wasserstein's *The Heidi Chronicles*.

Greenwich was actually where the three-shop chain built up by Mrs Reason and her business partner started almost 20 years ago. But last year they parted amicably, her partner taking the Greenwich and Tower Bridge shops and the original name, Stitches and Daughters, and Mrs Reason changing the name of the



Actress Susannah Harker, right, has a passion for gift-giving and has become a regular at Sisters and Daughters, owned by Carola Reason, left

Blackheath shop, reflecting the shop's largely female customer base but not, she hopes, excluding the odd liberated Blackheath male.

In theatrical households, a first night traditionally means more present buying, which is fine by Ms Harker. "I have a passion for gift-giving. I'm sure Freud would have a lot to say about it. It's supposed to be an act of aggression but I find that hard to believe."

And there's never a shortage of choice. "We always have far too many things. But if you're the kind of shop with the same customers that come in again and again, it's very difficult to change anything. On the other hand, without new things a shop dies."

● *Sisters and Daughters*, 57 Tranquil Vale, Blackheath Village, London SE3 0BU (0181-852 8507)
 ● *Ultraviolet*, Channel 4, begins on Tuesday, Uncle Vanya, *The Gate Theatre, Dublin*, begins on Oct 6 (Box office: 00 353 1 874 4051)

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SHOP WATCH

- **Debenhams'** designer collections continue with the launch of interior designer Kelly Hoppen's home range. Creamy linen napkins, lacquered Eastern storage boxes and embossed square candles give just a taste of a cool East meets West style. Call 0171-408 4444 for branches.
- **Burberry's** sharp new image gives a fresh take on its classic 1924 house check. Check out the new wool coat in cool blue. Burberry, 167 Regent Street, London W1 (0171-734 4060).
- **Benefit Cosmetics** simply beg to be tried out. The It Suck (£17) to blank out facial lines, and El Bright (£13), to pep up tired eyes. Find lots more treats in its catalogue.
- **Thomas Goode**, the *crème de la crème* of china shops, has joined forces with Wedding List Services. Versace china, Mulberry homewares, Christian Lacroix linens — they're all yours if you have rich friends. Call 0171-493 4996 for details.
- **UPDATE:** L'Occitane opens a new store in Chelsea this month at 67 King's Road, London SW3 (0171-823 4555)... Order tickets now (£5) for the Designer's Sale during London Fashion Week from September 30. Discounts on excess stock and end of season lines from the likes of Amanda Wakeley and Philip Treacy. Ticket hotline 0171-413 1421.



Burberry's new check

Call 0171-629 1234 for mail order.

JUDITH WILSON

Photographs by Des Jensen

The grate and the good

CHEESE GRATERS

Although you can now buy cheese already grated from the supermarket, it's not as good as when you do it yourself. Which grater to buy depends on personal preference and when asked, many people can describe instantly the style of grater they prefer.

Juliet Harbutt, from the British Cheese Board, prefers functionality over style: "I like bog-standard square-based graters," she says. Lucy Parsons, table-top buyer for Habitat, will only grate her parmesan with a single-sided curvy hand-held grater and Mara Berni, owner of the top-notch San Lorenzo Italian restaurant in London favours a hand-held grater with a wooden backing.

ABOVE Comfortable to hold and easy to clean, the Twergr pearl-wood grater, £40, from Oggetti (0171 384 9808)

RIGHT To work the Pensop Spaghetti Tree parmesan grater, £17, first wedge your cheese on to the spike then attach the lid and twist. From The Home Place (as above)

RIGHT Guzzini's Grippy cheese grater comes in a choice of blue, green, or orange jelly plastic and has a head-toe handle to keep it steady. Available for £7.50 from House of Fraser (0171-963 2000) or for £7.95 from Divertimenti (0171-935 0689)

ABOVE Twergr's cherry-wood grater, £44, designed in the shape of a door stopper, comes apart making it easy to clean. From Oggetti (as above)

LEFT Priced at £23, the curvy blue plastic Blessi Parmesan grater has the advantage of a catcher for holding the cheese as you grate and a removable stainless steel grate for easy cleaning. From Oggetti (0171-584 9808)

BELOW This award-winning Parma cheese grater sits in a moulded-plastic catcher with a lid and has an anti-slip bottom. Available in five pastel colours. From Bodum (0171-240 9176) for £8.99 and House of Fraser (as before) for £10

LEFT More a novelty than a useful kitchen utensil is the carrot-shaped grater in orange and green, £2.25, from Saville-Edels (0171-351 1221). Mail order is available (p&p £1.95)

ABOVE A choice of two drums means that with a stainless steel Moulinex Mouli grater, £9.85, parmesan can be grated either finely or coarsely. From David Mellor (0171-730 4259)

MARY ANN PERCY

GADGETS

WHERE there's muck there's money, but with a Gardenwise Composter where there's muck there's manure. The composter arrives packed flat and assembly of the four side panels, slotting tongue and groove corner joints together, is a little tricky but worth the effort.

It is made from charcoal-black recycled polypropylene and, with squinted eyes, looks vaguely like it is in moulded cast iron. Roughly 30in square and 33in tall, it has a large square lid.

Into this sturdy composter can be thrown all manner of biodegradable waste, such as household food scraps and grass cuttings. The layers rot down to produce humus and nutrient-rich soil, ideal for spreading around flower beds or vegetable patches.

Sliding traps at the bottom of each panel allow easy access with a self-standing to keep the compost. To speed up the manufacture, you can sprinkle lime among the rotting layers as they build up. Worms find this is all too tempting, a veritable feast, so they will find their own way in to Composter's restaurant. They also accelerate the soil-making process, so providing that even when we think life stinks, some good can come of it.

IF YOU have neither a gardening partner nor two pairs of hands another indispensable garden gizmo is the Rubbish Bag Loader, which holds open plastic refuse sacks so you can actually load them without sweat and tears.

This loader is a round, stiff and flat sheet which slips into binliners to make them rigid and self-standing to keep them wide open. Since the loader is snag-proof, many rose growers hold it dear to their hearts.

TIM WAPSHOTT
 ● Gardenwise Composter, £59.95, from Lakeland Ltd (015394 88100). Rubbish Bag Loader, £7.95 plus p&p, from Innovations (0870 908 7070).

سكرا من الاصل

THE TIMES WEEKEND · SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12 1988

Joanna Pitman



Alice had been all set for a spiffing infancy: wild, irresponsible and self-indulgent. But those ugly sisters, peer pressure and competition, have already begun to sidle up to her cradle and tap her gently on the shoulder. The first sneaked up in the form of well-intentioned advice from some friends, 12 months ahead of us in this parenthood business — properly-licensed parents compared to us, still wearing our L-plates.

It all began over a babyish chat one lunchtime. Had we got Alice her black and white mobile yet, they asked. We looked at each other blankly. Alice has a very jolly animal mobile in cheeky bright colours which swivels overhead to the tune of a Brahms lullaby. But no, nothing in black and white, we said. "Oh, you must get her one," they urged. "Terribly good for visual development. Our daughter is way ahead of her peers already in terms of visual cognition. The

midwife and the doctor both said so." No doubt she'll be swotting for her GCSEs soon.

The black and white "Stimulation Mobile", with its high-contrast patterns, apparently helps to develop a baby's visual skills and speeds up its learning patterns. The baby becomes better at "self-educating". A bit like a self-basting chicken, I suppose. It sounds rather ridiculous, but in my current sleep-deprived state, I'm beginning to wonder whether we ought to get one.

ALICE is almost ready for her second bout of immunisations. The first round was an unmitigated disaster for all concerned. For a start, in my eagerness to avoid a fever after the injection, I gave her a dose of Sugar Free Calpol as a preventative measure. If there is one certainty emerging in Alice's short life, it is that she and Sugar Free Calpol do not agree with each other. By the time I'd got her to the clinic, she'd worked herself up into a furious

rage, all pumping legs and livid screams. I was beginning to consider earplugs as we got to the doctor's surgery. "Is she all right?" asked the doctor. "What?" I yelled. "I said, is she always like this?" she belatedly. "No, she's normally very calm," I yelled back. The doctor looked long and hard at me as if I was bonkers and then with a grim smile turned to pin poor Alice

down on the bed. After a few swift developmental checks, she was punctured in the thigh with a cocktail of diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and Hib (the vaccine to protect against pneumonia, meningitis and blood poisoning). The mouth opened in a silent scream of horror as the needle went in, and then a little dose of polio was squirted down her throat. Wailing confusion was

immediately restored and Alice looked up at me through tearful eyes as if to say, "Why are you hurrying me? I thought you loved me?" I looked down and realised that the milk — the breasts leak heavily when maternal anxiety rises above a certain level. I mimed swift thanks to the doctor and we swept back into the waiting room to be

greeted by five pairs of extremely anxious maternal eyes awaiting their turn for this torture. I can only hope that the second round will be less traumatic.

I WAS sitting at a pavement café last week, gently rocking Alice in her pram and minding my own business, when a couple of mums sat down at the next table and manoeuvred their prams into similar rocking positions. Being members of the same club, we nodded and smiled at each other, just as drivers of MCGs nod and wave at each other when passing on the road. I carried on reading my book, but couldn't help overhearing my neighbours' conversation. One of the mothers, it appeared, had not yet chosen a name for her four-week-old son. She and her partner seemed to have gone through names like Kleenex, failing to agree. This, I soon realised, was hardly surprising given that the mother appeared to be fixated on a particular genre

of name. So far she had narrowed down her choice to Tofu, Maize or Alfalfa (presumably Alice for short). I thought this was a bit much. "Aren't you putting your own expectations on him?" asked her friend. Quite right. What happens if when he grows up, he doesn't want to be a vegetarian? How would she have embraced life if her mother had named her Nut Roast?

WE HAVE friends who also had a baby-naming dilemma. Their three-year-old twins, fascinated by their mother's bulging stomach, would daily recite a favourite rhyme: "Algie met a bear! The bear was bulgie! The bulge was Algie." Finally a baby boy was born. Her mother had planned to come home from hospital with a Tom, the twins logically declared this new person to be Algie. For weeks they all dithered, the parents calling him Tom and the twins calling him Algie. In the end the twins showed the greater tenacity. Algie he is.



School uniforms are big business for fashion houses and the high street where label wars have now hit the playgrounds

Uniform look at the fashion front

Last week I discovered that you can no longer buy sensible school shoes. I have scoured the shops for a flat, black lace-up for my nine-year-old daughter, but to no avail. All that can be found are teetering, tottering blocks of shoes, apparently built out of cast-off tractor tyres. Vivienne Westwood would be thrilled by the heels atop of which schoolgirls now stagger. And this is for a school with uniform requirements that stretch over several photocopied pages.

"I persuaded your daughter's school to put the regulation height up from 4cm to 4.5cm," explains Michael Greenwood, purveyor of shoes to children from north Oxford schools. He explains the problem with this pre-pubescent stampede for style: "There was simply not enough range of shoes with lower heels. For brands to sell to girls aged ten to 14, they have to follow fashion. We need to stock what girls insist on having."

My daughter was thrilled by the liberal new height edict as she carried away her box of tie-on steamrollers, shoes so tall that she risks vertigo every time she climbs avoiding hitting her head on the ceiling as she tried them on. "I think I might even wear these out of school."

School uniform is now big business: a recent NOP poll suggested 70 per cent of the public support David Blunkett's notion of its compulsory reintroduction to all schools.

The fashion houses and high-street chains are rubbing their hands at the thought of all that action. Exploiting the flexibility inherent in the basic regime of white shirt, grey jumper and blue skirt or trousers, Marks & Spencer and Bhs are advertising school fashion items such as bootleg trousers. This is good news for the gels at Cheltenham Ladies College which broke with its 145-year tradition this year by allowing its sixth-formers to cover their legs.

Buying school clothes is a minefield for parents, with pupils demanding designer labels and trendy outfits, says Arabella Warner

George for School range this autumn. This includes white stretch-fabric shirts, grey bouclé cardigans and fur-collared jackets. "These are the fun options," says Jo Kendrick, George's marketing director. "We have tried to give children something they want to wear which the schools allow and the parents feel comfortable with."

Unfortunately for parental budgets, designer labels are competing too. Agnes b, French Connection and Kookai are offering price tags on the uncoolest of all, the grey cardigan. While £26.50 will buy you a dress, tights and shirt at Bhs, none can compare with the limitless cred your daughter will gain from an ES Ralph Lauren white blouse. Or so she tells me.

So great are the pressures from teenagers to be allowed to attend school in the "right" outfit that some mothers have been known to stitch designer labels into ordinary uniform, hoping their offspring will not notice the difference. Oh, all right, it was me.

There is no doubt that school uniform excites strong passions among parents. Some believe it instils a strong social pride; for others it represents all that they hate about a constricted education system which likes its children to conform and not express their individualism. Annelies Clarke, an artist who was born and educated in Holland which — like most of Europe and the United States — does not both-

er with school uniforms, cannot understand the British obsession with the subject. "Very strict uniform is ghastly — it makes the children look like an army of little adults," she says. "It puts the emphasis on the wrong thing — appearance rather than learning. And you don't get rid of class differences by dressing yourselves the same. You are only yourself in your own clothes."

Another problem is that there are different kinds of uniform, ranging from the extreme kind, found at private schools such as Eton and the Dragon prep school in Oxford, to the basic white shirt/blouse and black (or whatever) trousers/skirt in many comprehensive schools.

While the extreme kind does not offer much scope for the wearer to customise it, the standard uniform can be an open invitation to join the label wars.

"The kind of uniform we have reduces the competitiveness considerably," says Trevor Allen, head teacher of Dorothy Stringer High School in Brighton, Sussex, where the school's only requirement is that students wear white tops and black bottoms. "It's the kind of uniform the kids don't mind wearing outside school, so it's rarely flouted and gives them ample opportunity to show their individuality."

"However, we do maintain a uniform because it gives a sense of social cohesion and identity. It's also important for security reasons. Somebody on the school campus without a uniform soon stands out."

Richard Townsend, director of music at Hill House School in London, where the children sport a distinctive arrangement of rust-coloured knickerbockers and chunky gold pullovers, designed by his mother more than 40 years ago, believes it is a social leveller.

"The main point of the school uniform is the idea that all children, rich and poor, look the same," he says, though you wonder how many poor children there are at a school where a year's fees cost upwards of £4,500.

"They should be colourful, comfortable and practical. Children are very competitive and uniform avoids all that. We don't even allow watches. They'd be swapping a Rolex for a Timex and getting into all kinds of trouble."

This is a practical view of uniform echoed by Roger Trafford, headmaster of the Dragon, where boys and girls wear a charming corduroy outfit straight out of *Just William*.

"Really, it shouldn't be about having to worry about designer clothes," says Mr Trafford. "There's plenty of time to do that at home. We try and teach the kids that there are different clothes for different occasions — you don't play in the mud in your school uniform, but when you are working, you should be dressed appropriately. Children behave and react better when they are more uniformly dressed."

Many of the Dragon pupils progress to Eton, where the uniform of tails, morning trousers and stiff collars (more than £300) is now so evocative of all things quaint and English that photographing the boys has become essential for Japanese tourists.

"You wouldn't, perhaps, invent it from scratch but it has become an Eton trademark," says John Lewis, the school's headmaster. "And it's practical and comfortable and warm. I recently conducted consultations with the boys and it was clear they would prefer no uniform at all if given the choice, but if they were obliged to have anything, they would prefer to stick with what they had."

For parents, anything that stops that argument in the morning over what to wear has got to be the easiest option. For me, that means a practical, comfortable school uniform. And on the shoes front, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Flat heels are gracing the Paris catwalk this autumn in Los Angeles and New York the chic are seen in nothing else. Which, with a bit of luck, means they will be in Clark's by this time next year.

Children are very competitive and uniform avoids all that

Back to front ideas about dyslexia

To readers of A.A. Gill's caustic columns in *The Sunday Times* it explains everything. The slayer of all things politically correct, pretentious or Welsh, was, as a schoolboy, left to struggle unaided with that most debilitating of learning difficulties, dyslexia. Little wonder his wit now cuts so deep.

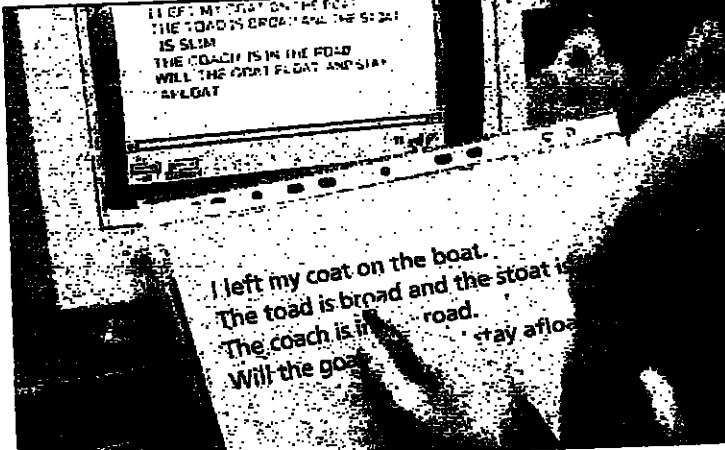
"I was treated with immense suspicion by teachers," he says. "I was known to have a very high IQ but my work was atrocious. I still remember some of the unkind comments. History, for example, was a subject I adored but the teacher told me, 'There's no point in you studying history. You can't even write.' A.A. Gill used to overcome his problems. As a student, he chose his study art at the Slade where the ability to write was not of overriding importance. To this day he goes to great lengths to compensate for his dyslexia. His articles would be illegible to copytakers so he dictates them instead.

However, not all young people have A.A. Gill's tenacity, and his experiences illustrate a major short-coming in our education system: the reluctance of local education authorities to cope with the child who is extremely intelligent and dyslexic. The predicament of Sarah Hanson from Ealing, West London,

Schools are still reluctant to help dyslexic children, says Fred Redwood

is typical. With three dyslexic sons, she sought special help for her youngest, Freddie. "He was showing classic signs of dyslexia — problems with sequencing, speech difficulties and letter reversal. An educational psychologist found he had an IQ of 137, which is very high. But for two years the school refused to acknowledge he was dyslexic until Freddie failed his aptitude tests in reading and writing."

During the interim period Freddie developed behavioural problems — a direct result of his frustration at not being able to learn. The school's solution was to exclude him at lunch times and to imply that his poor behaviour was due to lack of discipline at home. It was only after Mrs Hanson complained to the governing body that one-to-one help with a special needs teacher was arranged. Even then, it was suggested that this help should be provided by withdrawing the extra



With professional help, high-ability dyslexics learn to cope quickly

tuition being provided for her elder son, Leo. Since starting the two 40-minute sessions each week, Freddie's reading and writing has improved dramatically and his behaviour is no longer a problem. Schools are reluctant to provide extra help for bright dyslexics because they are short of money. They can even sometimes mislead parents in order to protect their coffers. Mrs Hanson was told that she had "missed the funding dead-

line" when she had, in fact, given the school adequate time to make arrangements. Parents should remember that after a child has been "stated" as having special educational needs, it is the authority's obligation to provide extra help.

Neil Mackay is a teacher and dyslexia expert who lectures on the subject throughout the country. He can recite a catalogue of excuses given by schools for not finding extra help

for high-ability dyslexics. "Most popular are the 'weasel words,'" he says. "Teachers say 'he isn't ready to read yet'; others say 'there are others far worse in the class than your child' or point out that the child is only about a year behind the norm in terms of reading age. This misses a vital point — that a ten-year-old child with an IQ of 135 should be expected to have a reading age of 14-plus. If he is lagging five years behind his potential ability."

With appropriate professional help, high-ability dyslexics can learn to cope quickly. All too often, however, parents are forced to go to the private schools to find the quality of provision their children need.

A.A. Gill has no doubt who is to blame for the current state of affairs. "I never meet a middle-class parent nowadays with a child who is quite simply thick," he says. "Instead, they are all, apparently, dyslexic, which is ludicrous. Dyslexia now has a cachet. It's associated with a sensitive, artistic nature. It has become fashionable. But there is a real danger here. By pinning this label to all their children, parents are giving them a ready-made excuse to fail."

British Dyslexia Association helpline 0118 966271

SOLUTION TO BANK HOLIDAY JUMBO 183

The winners of £100 are Peter B. Armstrong, of Slough, Buckinghamshire; Mrs M. Laidman, of Preston, Lancashire; Peter Slater, of Sheffield; John McFarlane, of Millom, Cumbria; Mrs P.P. Miller, of Cranfield, Bedfordshire; Mrs MacLean, of Swindon, Wiltshire

A large grid of letters for a word search puzzle. The grid contains various words hidden in different directions. Some words are circled in the original image.

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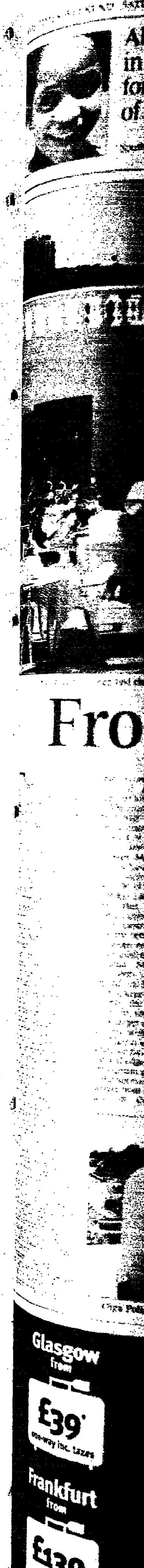
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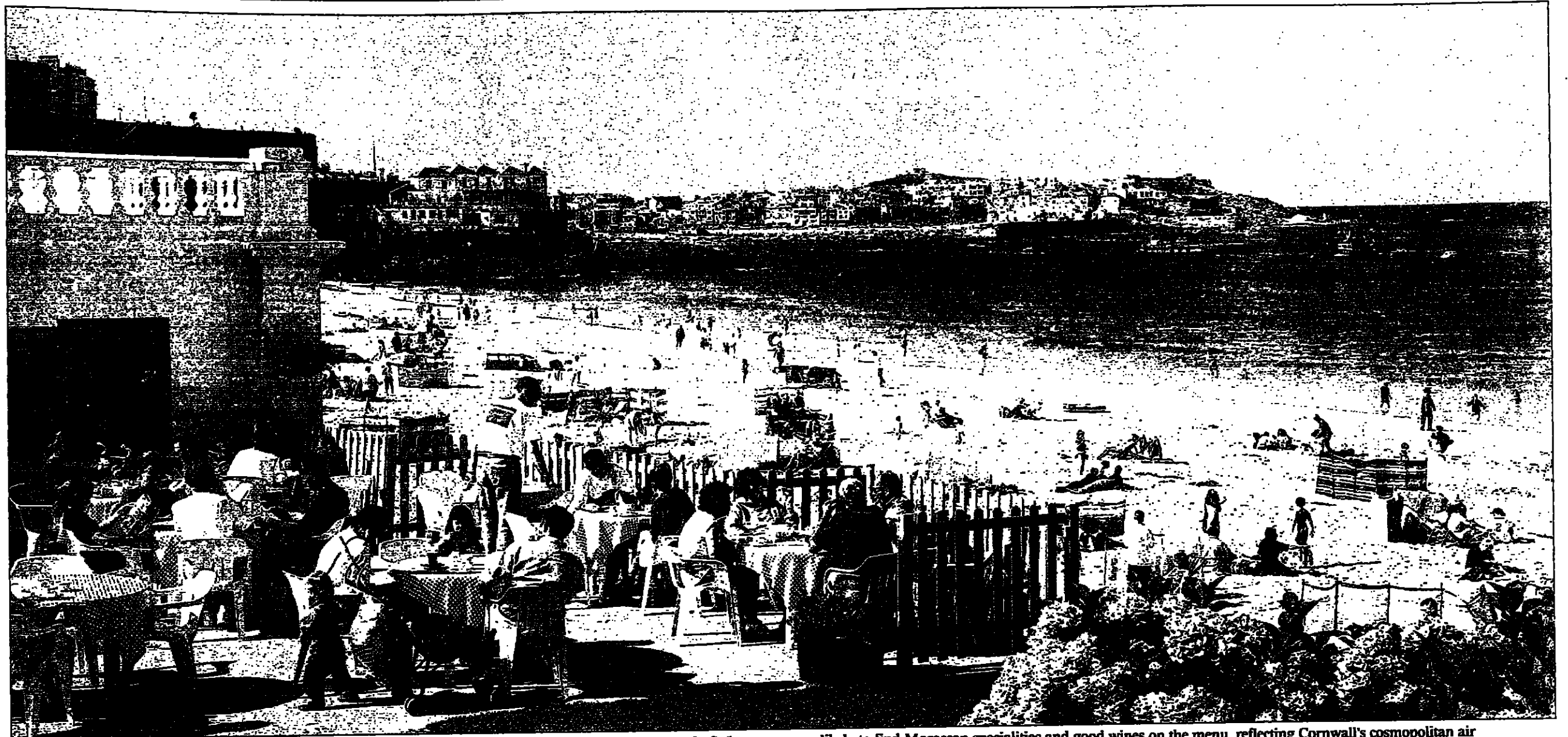
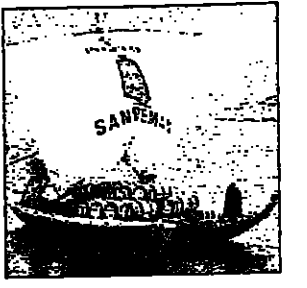
All smiles in Soweto for new era of peace

South Africa · 26, 27

THE TIMES TRAVEL

Nostalgic journey and a toast to romance

Portugal · 28



Say goodbye to egg and chips — diners at the Porthminster Café, above, on Porthminster Beach, St Ives, are more likely to find Moroccan specialities and good wines on the menu, reflecting Cornwall's cosmopolitan air

From beach cred to street cred

Cornwall has always been popular for family holidays; now it is also showing signs of becoming chic, as Paul Mansfield discovers

The terrace bar beneath my room was packed, and it occurred to me — as a purely hypothetical notion — that if I nosedived out of the window I would probably flatten half of London's bright young things. So where was this? Not some fashionable (slightly *point de rencontre*, but the Hotel Tresanton in St Mawes, Cornwall.

This impeccably chic hotel, which opened in June, is the latest proof that Cornwall is becoming fashionable. The evidence has been emerging for some years. Take a growing number of professional people relocating from London (an early pioneer was Tim Smit, Barry Manilow's former producer, who transformed the derelict Lost Gardens of Heligan into the country's most-visited garden). Add an expanding number of good restaurants, mix in a handful of far-sighted entrepreneurs who have invested money in upmarket hotels — three have opened in the past few months alone. Finally, add the occasional "act of God" — next year's total eclipse of the sun, for example — and, taken as a whole, you have a recipe for a style revolution.

There is a physical and psychological shift as you leave behind the hedgerows and picture-postcard villages of Devon and enter rugged open country dotted with grey stone houses with slate roofs. The place names change, with the solid "Saints" and "Abbots" of middle England giving way to strange, exotic-sounding villages called Balldhu, Gwinnear and Marazion. Penzance is bathed in silvery light, with the humped outline of St Michael's Mount rising up from the sand at low

tide. At once desolate, romantic and alluring, Cornwall feels strikingly un-English.

The road to Land's End was busy with family cars which, on a rainy day, clog the byways of Cornwall heading from one "attraction" to another. Many of these tourist set-ups have historical themes — recreations of Cornish village life, of a tin mine, of shipwrecks — and are awkwardly positioned between educational exhibit and theme park.

Of Land's End, the least said the better. With its souvenir shops, restaurants and spurious exhibits, it is a national disgrace. Most British families seem content — or resigned — to handing over their cash to keep the kids quiet.

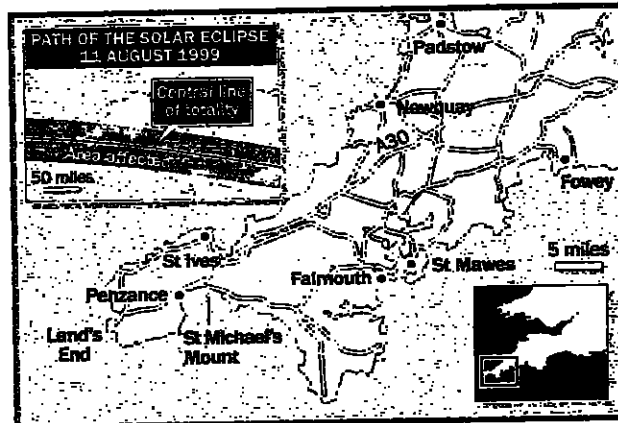
Only the foreign visitors, many in shorts and dressed for a proper day's hiking, walk around with a disappointed air. They at least seem to know what we have lost by turning the wild edge of Britain into an amusement park.

But not even Land's End can detract from the rugged grandeur of Cornwall's north

coast. I drove along the coast road, stopping now and then to leave the car and clamber down to the beach, to watch the Atlantic waves pounding on black rocks, listen to the gulls and smell the brine and kelp. This natural beauty is bringing a new generation of visitors to the southwest.

St Ives is where you first notice real evidence of Cornwall's gentrification. The town has always been proud of its artists' colony and "galleries" (St Ives-speak for "art shops"). Now it is awash with brightly coloured umbrellas and cappuccino signs. Near the winding lanes of the town centre, street signs advise pedestrians that they are entering "an alcohol-free zone". In other words, "No yobbos, please".

On Porthminster Beach, kids were building sandcastles in front of a row of faded chalets. The Porthminster Café seemed like an ordinary beach-



front café — until I took a closer look at its menu. Moroccan hummus, Tuscan bean salad, a good international wine list and all served with the minimum pretension.

St Ives Tate Gallery, a resounding success since its opening five years ago, is housed in a stunning building

overlooking Porthmeor Beach. A sizeable queue waited to view the assembled Ben Nicolson and Barbara Hepworths, and they were, for the most part, ordinary holidaymakers: proof that it is not mandatory to be young, fashionable and urban to take an interest in the visual arts.

sat immobilised at traffic lights, a teenager skate-boarded past, weaving through the traffic with ease. Welcome to Newquay.

The town's best-known beach, Fistral, has been given over completely to surf culture. Tanned young bodies beautiful strutted their stuff at the water's edge, ghetto-blasters boomed, wetsuits hung from the windows of hotels, and bars were packed with borderline-age drinkers (this year's beverage-of-choice is the silver-bottled Malibu Spice).

Cornwall's gentrification is unlikely to affect Newquay — surfers are not interested in fancy restaurants and upmarket hotels. But the town exerts its own influence. Driving around the coast, I had noticed signs of a vibrant, if undefinable, youth culture. Henna tattoos on offer, hair-braiding there; tie-dyed crop tops, Lycra shorts, mirrored shades with heavy duty neck-straps — it is a seaside dress code. Now, I realised, Newquay's contribution to Cornwall's regeneration is street cred.

So, finally, to St Mawes, with its pretty harbour flanked by green hills offering views out to sea. At early evening, kids were leaping off the harbour wall into the water. And at the far end of the bay, looking across to the lighthouse on St Anthony Head was the Hotel Tresanton.

Once a grand hotel, frequented in the 1950s by the likes of Princess Margaret, it fell into decline before being rescued by Olga Polizzi, daughter of Lord Forte. The Tresanton's 28 rooms are simply and beautifully decorated (blue-and-white striped curtains, fluffy white duvet and pillows), its corridors spartan and minimalist.

Olga Polizzi's family and friends are often found at the Tresanton; her writer husband William Shawcross occasionally waits at tables. Daughter Charlie's wedding last weekend to Oliver Peyton, owner of the Atlantic Bar and Grill in London, was the social event of the summer.

At dinner on the terrace, there is a convivial, casual crowd. Yachts and powerboats flit across the harbour. As the light fades, the beam of the lighthouse blinks on and there is the distant clanking of anchor chains from freighters waiting to get into neighbouring Falmouth, Perfect.

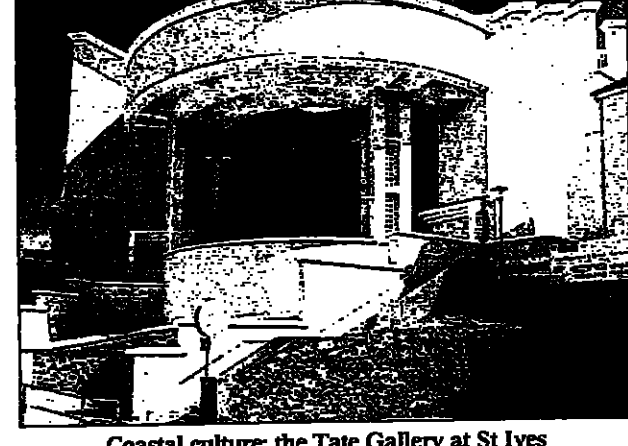
In the morning, Olga Polizzi gazed across the peaceful bay. "If this was the South of France it would be absolutely packed," she said. "Cornwall is so uncrowded." Probably not for long. The Duchy's resurgence is moving into high gear. "Something definitely seems to be happening here," said Olga, "and we're right in the middle of it."



Olga Polizzi at her St Mawes hotel, the Tresanton

CORNISH FACT FILE

- Paul Mansfield travelled with Great Western Trains and Brynmor Airways and stayed at Fowey Hall and Hotel Tresanton.
- Getting there: Great Western Trains (0345 000125) has six services a day (plus one overnight sleeper) from London Paddington to Penzance. From £31 return; must be booked a week in advance. Brynmor Airways has return flights from Gatwick to Newquay from £99. Book on 0345 222111.
- Car hire: Europcar (0345 222525) has offices in Penzance and Newquay airport. From £157 weekly, £28 daily for a Group A car.
- Where to stay: Fowey Hall (01726 833866), from £125 a double, including breakfast. Hotel Tresanton, St Mawes (01238 270055), from £200-£250 a double, including breakfast.
- Reading: *Britain* (Lonely Planet, £14.99); *Rebecca and The House on the Strand* by Daphne du Maurier (both Arrow, £5.99), for descriptions of Cornish countryside.
- Further information: Cornwall Tourist Board (01572 274057).



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Peaceful Soweto welcomes tourists

Tom Chesshyre ventures into the best-known township in South Africa, now coming into its own as a friendly place to visit

"The police shot at us here," recalled Valencia Madliwa, our Soweto tour guide. "There was chaos. People were frantically running to get away. Children were killed. It was a terrible, terrible time."

We were at Hector Peterson Square, named after the first child to die when police opened fire on pupils protesting against the introduction of Afrikaans in black schools in 1976. Anti-government riots raged for eight days; by the end, the death toll stood at 140. It was a pivotal moment in the struggle against apartheid: reports of the unrest helped to turn world opinion against the white regime.

Valencia was 16 at the time. "I had to leave Soweto immediately for safety and go to live with my uncle in the Eastern Cape. It was lucky I did, as the police came around looking for me and wrecked my parents' house," she said, her voice cracking with emotion.

Most visitors to South Africa come to gaze through binoculars at wildlife in the national parks or to sip dry white wines in the Cape. Until recently, townships have been considered off the tourist map: crime-ridden no-go zones where camera-dangling foreigners risk muggings.

But all this is changing. Crime against tourists has fallen and several tour operators — including up-market companies such as BA Holidays — now include township visits. Although few people are likely to visit the country just to see a township, a day trip to Soweto (short for South Western Townships) is rapidly becoming *de rigueur*.

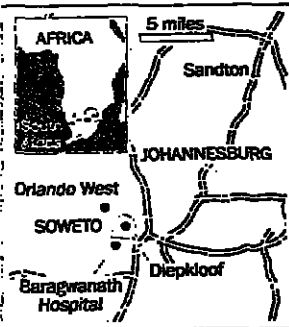
We were visiting after staying overnight in Sandton, a wealthy suburb in north Johannesburg packed with shopping malls selling Nike and Ralph Lauren, all-you-can-eat rib restaurants, international chain hotels and huge houses protected by barbed wire fences and security cameras. BMWs and Jags zipped along roads lined with azaleas and palms. The contrast with South Africa's largest township could hardly be more greater. Our first sight was of ramshackle shanty towns consisting of tightly-packed wooden huts with makeshift corrugated iron roofs.

Rubbish littered the streets: old newspapers, bits of broken fences and crumpled Coke cans. On some street corners, overflowing rubbish skips had been set alight; black smoke trickled upwards and hung in a layer of smog in the still Sowetan sky.

Nobody, however, seemed too interested in a minibus filled with white tourists. While we were stuck in a traffic jam, a donkey cart carrying corrugated iron and wooden sticks passed in the opposite direction; the Steptoe-like character directing it gave us a gap-toothed smile. Then a shoeless man pushing an old shopping trolley holding two pigs strolled past without even glancing at us.

FACT FILE

- Tom Chesshyre travelled with British Airways Holidays.
- Getting there: British Airways Holidays (0870-242 4249) has a 12-night tour of South Africa that includes a visit to Soweto from £1,979 per person, based on two sharing. Return flights from Heathrow. The tour begins in Cape Town and goes through Oudshoorn, before boarding a steam train from Krystna to Wilderness. Next departure: October 28.
- Soweto tours: Jimmy's Face to Face Tours (0277 11 331 6109), Imbizo Tours (833 2667), Max Maximum Tours (833 4177).
- Further information: South African Tourism Board (0181-944 8080).



Winnie Mandela is still revered in the townships, and the house she shared with Nelson Mandela — pictured here on opening day — has now become a museum



The residents of Soweto may be poor, but they are keen to welcome tourists who want to know more about their way of life

Our day trip began with a stop at a market by a busy bus terminal next to Baragwanath Hospital. Its stalls sold spicy beef and rice dishes ("Come and have breakfast, my friends!" exclaimed the chef), as well as bead jewellery, herbal remedies and cheap leather wallets.

"This is incredible," said a member of our group from Johannesburg. "I'd never have even dreamt I'd come to Soweto and now I'm able to just walk around like this."

We ate lunch at Wandie's Place on the outskirts of Orlando West. It is Soweto's best-known shebeen and firmly on the tourist trail: pictures of Richard Branson and Evander Holyfield adorn its walls. Outside, next to a sign saying "No takkies (trainers), caps and weapons allowed", there was a small stall selling colourful beads and purses.

Pepi Satheke, wearing an El-

esse hat and a South African rugby shirt, was manning it. "Of course, like everywhere, there are criminals in Soweto," he said. "But most people have recognised that tourism provides an opportunity to build a better life here."

The food was excellent. I had curried beef stew (£2.70) and there was also a buffet serving deep-fried hake, lamb stew, curried vegetables and salads (£6). There were a few other tourists eating, but it had not been taken over by hordes of foreigners.

Our next stop-off was at the former home of Nelson and Winnie Mandela (now known as Winnie Madikizela-Mandela), which is on the same street as Archbishop Desmond Tutu's house. It is now a museum, and the closest Soweto comes to accommodating mass tourism. Since opening last November it has attracted up to 1,000 visitors a day. Run by Winnie, it is offi-

cially called the Winnie Mandela and Family Museum (there is a continuing controversy about where the tourist cash is going; Nelson Mandela wants the museum to be taken into public ownership).

Everywhere there are signs of the house's dark past. It was burnt to the ground in 1988 by Sowetans angry with Winnie's violent bodyguards, known as the Mandela United Football Club. There are bullet holes in the walls and black marks from another arson attack.

Inside the small, red-brick house — in which Nelson Mandela lived in the Fifties — there are childhood photos of Winnie as well as honorary degrees awarded to the President, ANC flags, a videotape of Gandhi and a poster reading: "None of this Earth shall kill your spirit!"

A shop sells T-shirts with slogans referring to Mrs Mandela as "The Mother of the Nation", although the most popular T-shirt, according to the attendant, says: "I have been to Soweto... I have met Sowetans".

This message touches on concern among Sowetans that tourists come for voyeuristic thrills. "It's good just to be able to say you've been here," admitted an American tourist. The local joke for this type of visitor is: "Welcome to Soweto... Now go home". Restrained language, given how some must feel.

In the final stretch of the tour we saw how the township's other half lives. Winnie Mandela now lives in a mansion in the Diepkloof Extension, Soweto's Beverly Hills.

The place is enormous, with vast walls, security cameras, perfectly mown lawns. There are more than 20 rand millionaires in Diepkloof and plenty of Porsches and BMWs.

SOUTH AFRICA

■ THE "WHERE DO I START?" SITE: <http://africa.com/> is the gateway to all that's African on the web, from history to business opportunities. <http://www.city.net/regions/africa> is a clear guide to South Africa, including Robben Island, site of Mandela's prison. <http://rodie.animal.uuuc.edu/Documents/RSA.html> is a basic but informative guide to regions and attractions.

■ THE MUGGING-UP SITE: <http://www.travel.co.za/travel.html> includes a glossary of common Afrikaans words and discounts on hotel bookings. Be a Virtual Tourist at <http://www.vtourist.com/Africa/> or go to <http://www.backpackers.com/index.html> for forums and guides.

■ KER-CHING! THE BEST DEAL SITE: E-mail indiana.edu/afirst/out/video.html for free video-lending of African studies and feature films, including the original *Cry the Beloved Country* from 1951. Register online at <http://www.travelocity.com> for bargain airfares. <http://www.gorp.com/gorp/location/africa/africa.htm> has a good list of outdoor trips.

■ TRAVELLERS' TALES SITE: *The Journal of African Travel-Writing* offers all sorts at <http://www.unc.edu/ototwo>

■ "WELL, I NEVER!" THE RANDOM SITE: For real budget travellers <http://www3.sympatico.ca/donna.mcherry/africa.htm> is a hilarious guide to sleeping in airports in Africa and elsewhere.



WEB WORLD

SUSANNAH JOWITT

We had one (minor) scare. On our way out of Soweto, a car driven by a gang of youths swerved past us and then, going backwards, accelerated down the road before skidding to a halt 100 yards away. For a moment, we wondered if this was the prelude to a minibus-jacking — but then it sped away.

"I thought we were in trouble there," said one of the South Africans in our group. Valencia raised her eyebrows and replied: "You must be joking — they're just messing about. It is fine for tourists in Soweto now."

"A few years ago it may have

been different, but now if you come with a guided group it's safer than downtown Johannesburg."

Not only was the Soweto tour safe, it was also the highlight of our South African trip. After a week of taking in sights from Durban to Johannesburg via Kruger National Park, our day in Soweto was by far the most memorable. In a few hours we learnt more about the new South Africa than we would ever glean in a game reserve or Cape vineyard.

We had been to Soweto, met Sowetans — and were going home the better for it.

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SOUTH AFRICA: IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ALAN PATON

A majestic, still beloved country

Adrian Mourby used a novel as his guide to the new South Africa

The Beloved Country is big. Wooded hills soar up to 1,400 metres and valleys, cut by the Umzimkulu Mkomazi and Mgeni rivers, are as broad as their waters run shallow. The countryside where Alan Paton's novel *Cry, The Beloved Country* begins looks like the Brecon Beacons writ large. But the Beacons would be mere foothills here. From Ixopo I saw a dark, circular encampment of Zulu villages, with Paton's rolling hills — "lovely beyond singing" — soaring hundreds of feet upwards in the background.



Statue of Mahatma Gandhi

I came here to retrace the footsteps of the Rev Stephen Kumalo, aged hero of the novel that Paton wrote 50 years ago: a man who, in the words of the book's first line, travels down "a lovely road that runs from Ixopo to the hills". In those days the hills were grass-covered and rolling, although they were in danger of being eroded by bad farming. Fortunately this did not happen and now they have been carefully replanted with verdant trees: it is majestic scenery.

In the story, Kumalo is an *umfundisi*, a black parson living under a system of Separate Development in the years just before apartheid. Based in the countryside, Kumalo manages to steer clear of the misery of racial discrimination and poverty, but soon encounters it when he sets out to find his missing son, Absalom, who is in a condemned cell in Johannesburg.

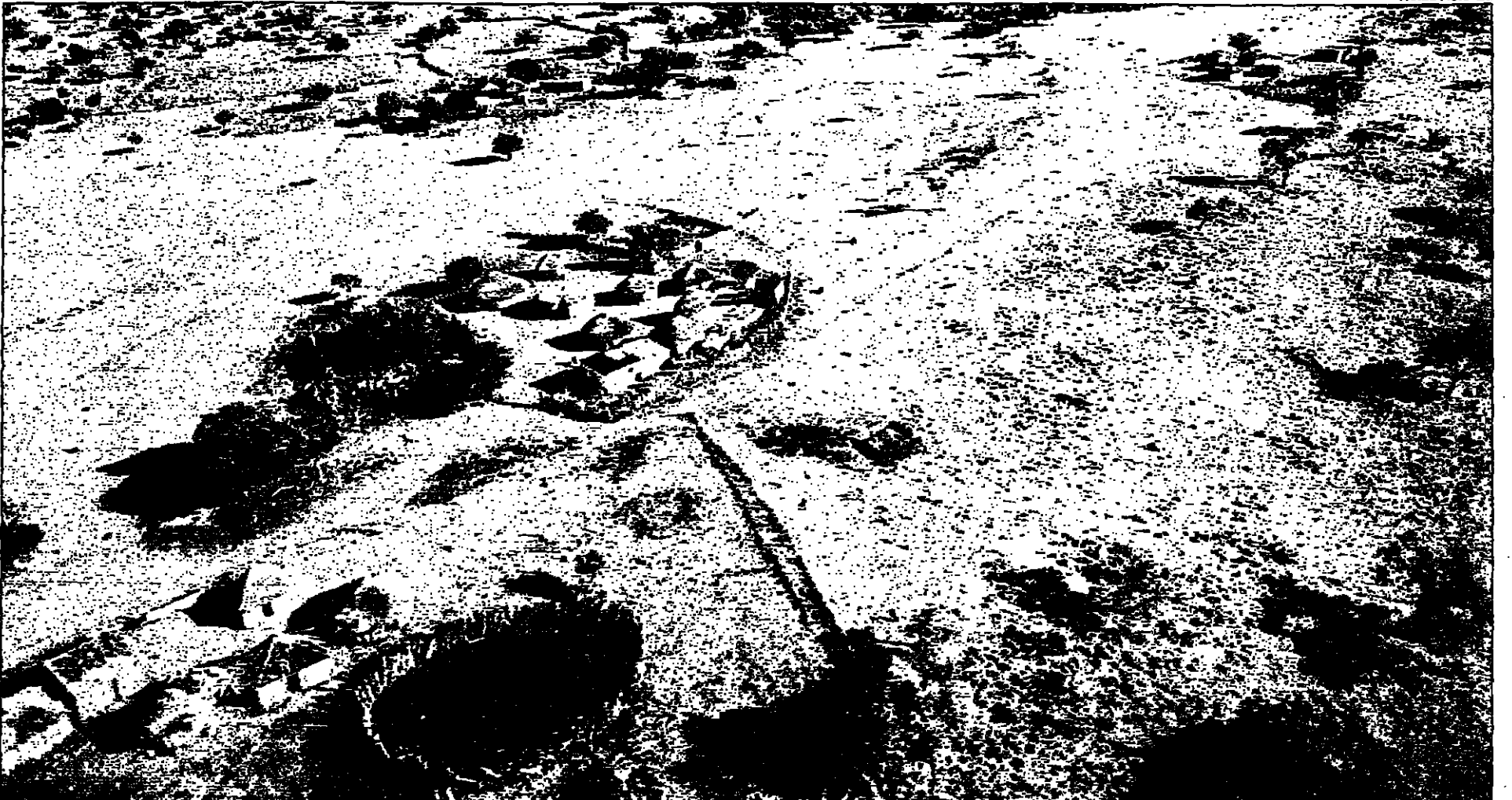
I wanted to repeat that journey — under totally different circumstances — in the South Africa of President Nelson Mandela. How much had the country changed since Paton visited? How dated would *Cry, The Beloved Country* — which helped bring apartheid to the attention of the world — look? I began my pilgrimage in Ixopo itself, a colonial settle-

ment that the British tried to call Stuartstown but which never shook off its Zulu name for a nearby marsh. Ixopo today is a prosperous little settlement built on either side of a wide, clean street with a bank, supermarket and a hotel, The Off Saddle, which still bears the name it was given in the trekking days of 1878.

There wasn't much to see in Ixopo in 1948 when Paton wrote his novel, and he would probably be pleased to know that there still isn't. I didn't find Dead Men's Tree, where notices of execution were posted, but I did stop outside the Ixopo Lodge on St Margaret's Road, with its dark Masonic symbols picked out in the gleaming white stucco.

A smart Zulu woman, dressed for Sunday with a handbag carried on her head, told me that people still held meetings in the lodge once a month. "Masons?" I asked. "Males," she replied, which seemed answer enough.

My hero's route to the big city was via a small train up out of the Umzimkulu valley and on to Pietermaritzburg via Donnybrook. No trains run from Donnybrook these days, so I decided to drive to Pietermaritzburg, where Paton taught.



A Zulu village surrounded by wide stretches of dusty earth, in the KwaZulu/Natal province where *Cry, The Beloved Country* was set

The air was hot, even with the car windows open. There were few people on the roadsides as I neared the outskirts of the city, but I did notice the occasional Zulu youth carrying a blunt *asagai* and small "courtesy" shield, which in Natal signifies that a young man is on the hunt for conquest. Then, over a hill, I saw Pietermaritzburg, what Paton called "the lovely city", which looks surprisingly delicate in the broad Msunduzi valley.

Pietermaritzburg is best known for its railway station, where in 1893 a young Indian lawyer, Mohandas Gandhi, was thrown off the train for refusing to leave the first-class carriage. A plaque now marks the spot where the Mahatma's journey came to grief and he decided something had to be done for second-class citizens the world over. Nearby, a more recent plaque commemorates the occasion last year when Nelson Mandela made Gandhi a posthumous citizen of Pietermaritzburg.

With its vast brick City Hall and Stock Exchange, its stone memorials and civic art gallery, Pietermaritzburg looks for all the world like an American frontier town rebuilt in the style of Saliford.

The city centre is most unexpected, a rectangular grid of red-bricked Victorian streets

and alleyways, the veldt still in sight at the end of Commercial Road. Possibly, the city appears more exotic to Africans than it did to me, so after visiting the site of Gandhi's rude ejection, I drove on to the University of Natal, where the Alan Paton Centre is housed in a charming old campus bungalow. Here visitors can browse around a recreation of Paton's study and watch educational videos.

More serious students of conflict and reconciliation can spend time in the archive, set up to preserve evidence of South Africa's liberal struggle. Some of these documents were hidden for 28 years during the time that the likes of Paton, Mandela and Bishop Trevor Huddleston were persecuted by the apartheid regime.

I left Pietermaritzburg to head off along the N3 through what Paton called "the battlefields of long ago": the carnage sites from both the Boer and Zulu wars.

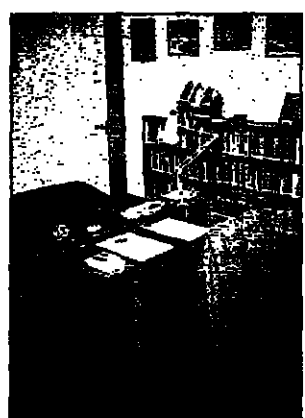
My next stop was Howick Falls, a spectacular drop, near which men were selling Zulu carvings. After admiring the view, I drove on and soon encountered two unusual shrines to South Africa's long history of imprisoning the wrong men.

The first, at Tsiamelo, commemorates the spot where in 1964 a disguised renegade, one Nelson Mandela, was captured. The second, only a few miles away at Frere, marks the place where a young war reporter, Winston Churchill, was captured by Boers and held for two months in 1900. It seems a remarkable coincidence that both prisoners went on to lead their countries in old age, although Churchill was the more fortunate. He escaped after only two months; Mandela, however, had to wait 26 years for his freedom.

Between Pietermaritzburg and Johannesburg the road creeps up to the High Veldt. This was where Kumalo awakes to find himself amazed by the scale of industrialisation in the region. As I drove north I found myself in a landscape that was probably little changed. Huge, dusty spaces were relieved by the occasional glimpse of cooling towers, clustered on the distant horizon.

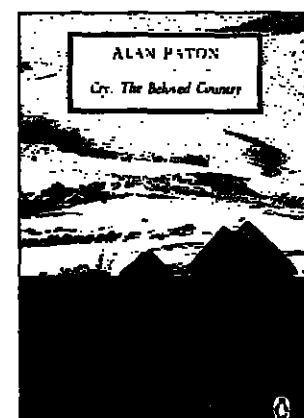
The Beloved Country was big and brown and seemed to go on forever. "All roads lead to Johannesburg," Paton wrote, but he omitted to warn us how long they are.

On reaching Claremont, the suburb where his sister Gertrude worked swindled out of his money. Here, as Paton put it, "you can see liquor running in the streets". The slum that was Claremont was demolished in the 1960s to make way for some depressingly cheap apartment blocks but, when I pulled off the road, it was obvious that for some people — white and black — the streets still ran sad with liquor.



Alan Paton's study

"Then I saw Pietermaritzburg, Paton's lovely city, delicate in the broad Msunduzi valley"



The cover of Paton's novel

from 1941 to 1955 the late Archbishop Trevor Huddleston was incumbent — a black and coloured congregation has returned.

Huddleston — the great Christian campaigner who became the scourge of the apartheid regime — would, no doubt, be pleased at the changes in Sophiatown, but less delighted perhaps at the board

outside his church that announces "These buildings are protected by BBR Armed Reaction Service". That, alas, is another sign of modern times in Johannesburg. I drove south out of the city

centre in search of Pimville, where the young Absalom Kumalo had made a local girl pregnant, only to find it is now part of the old South Western Townships, known to the world today as Soweto. This was the most joyful place that I found in Johannesburg, weather than you might expect and welcoming to a white tourist with his camera. Much must have changed since Paton died in 1988.

As head of state, Mandela now lives in Houghton, a leafy, affluent suburb. By a wonderful irony this is where Jarvis (the good white man whom Absalom Kumalo kills and for whose death he must be executed) lived in Paton's book. That Mandela, apartheid's victim for 26 years, now finds himself residing there shows how far the tables have turned in South Africa.



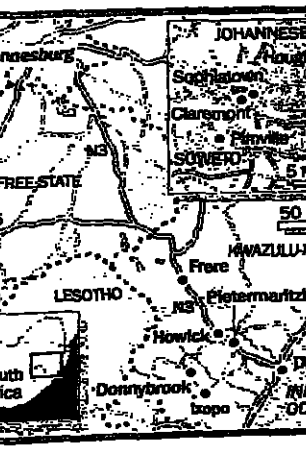
Richard Harris and James Earl Jones in the film

SOUTH AFRICA FACT FILE

Adrian Mourby flew with South African Airways (0171-312 5000) which is offering Heathrow to Durban for £369 plus £26 tax (book before September 30, travel within certain dates before January 31, 1999). October fares from £560 plus £26 tax.

Where to stay: Off Saddle Hotel (0277 336 341027) in Ixopo: double rooms are £20 and singles £10, breakfast included. The Imperial Protea (331 426551) in Pietermaritzburg has doubles from £38.50 and singles from £35. Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza (11 783 5262) in Sandton City, Johannesburg has doubles at £84. Singles are £69, room-only.

Car hire: Avis has two weeks' all-inclusive car hire from £300 (9990 900500). Budget has two weeks' all-inclusive car hire from £250 (0541 565656). Pick-ups for both are at Durban Airport and cars can be returned to the airport or deposits in Johannesburg.



Map of South Africa showing travel routes

Getting around: The overnight trans-Natal train from Pietermaritzburg to Johannesburg costs £14 first class and £9.50 second class, bed and bedding is an extra £2 for both classes. Telephone 331 958 2010 for tickets.

The Alan Paton Centre. For more information call the manuscript librarian Jocelyn Leslie-Smith (331 260 5926).

Reading *Cry, The Beloved Country*, by Alan Paton (Penguin, £6.99).

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Rome is rich in relics of the past, the Forum and the Colosseum represent ancient Rome; Piazza Navona, the historic centre of the city, and the Vatican and St Peter's, the religious centre.

ASSISI

The town of the deeply mystical St. Francis. Still enclosed by ramparts, Assisi has changed little since the Middle Ages.

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All the buildings of the Campo dei Miracoli lean due to their shallow foundations but none so famously as the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

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Fresh bread and a jug of wine

Returning to northern Portugal after 17 years, Tony Garrett found it was much changed — but still charming and extremely beautiful



Val Garrett, left, camping in northern Portugal 17 years ago; the apartment, right, at Quinta de Gatão

The motorway from Lisbon to Oporto is a nightmare. Our little Ford struggles northwards as we try to overtake slow-moving lorries only to be brushed aside by fast-moving executives. It is extremely hot and I am beginning to wonder if coming back to the Vinho Verde-growing area of north Portugal is a good idea.

My wife, Val, and I once spent a wonderful fortnight here, touring on our motor-cycle, but that was 17 years ago. We had loved the empty hills and civilised little towns and had promised ourselves that we would come back. We had not fulfilled the promise for various reasons, the main one of which is sprawled on the back seat of the car, listening to 1970s rock on his Walkman, seemingly oblivious to the traffic. Our son, Sam, was 16 a few days ago.

Another reason for disquiet is the landscape. Although we are heading east from Oporto it is still depressingly suburban. Lavish EU funds have poured into this part of the country aimed, apparently, at covering it in concrete, with brash new houses and factories sprouting up alongside the new roads and motorway. We finally pull into the little town of Penafiel. Reaching the tourist office just as it is closing, I am given a map and directions to Quinta de Gatão (Big Cat Farmhouse), where we will be spending the next ten days.

Following various B&B

road signs, we bump down the track to the quinta, past a tennis court and stables, and park in the shade of a vine-covered pergola. Although it is now evening, it is still hot and we are delighted to be shown our cool, granite apartment in one of the old outbuildings. Better still, especially for Sam who is showing signs of melting, there is a swimming pool in the shade of a little chapel.

Quinta de Gatão was built in the early 18th century on an estate once owned by the Knights Templar, suppressed in Portugal in the 12th century. The main house is a square building of granite and white plaster. The ground floor was originally a store for farm produce and still has the great granite tanks once used for making Vinho Verde, the light, sharp wine for which the area is famous.

The owners, Jorge and Madeleine Coelho de Silva, show us their beautiful first-floor rooms with vaulted ceilings, some of which they use for bed and breakfast guests (Jorge studied in Birmingham, which accounts both for the B&B signs and his excellent English).

The Coelho de Silvas look after us well: fresh bread appears at the door every morning; pots of delicious marmalade, one made of quince, one, amazingly, of tomatoes, are magically refilled; best of all, bottles of the estate's own wine appear in the fridge. Upstairs, Sam has made himself comfortable by strewing his bed with tape cassettes and is investigating Portuguese television. Days at the house began to flow with a comfortable rout-

ine. For me, a languid swim to wake up, followed by breakfast on the upper terrace, which has shade until about ten. By this time Sam has surfaced, so the family embark upon a punishing regime of sporting activity. Val and I sometimes stroll down to take a look at the tennis court, sometimes we go up to the stable for a chat with the horse (he loves peppermints and seems as averse to rushing around in the heat as we are). A pleasant hour can then be wasted by the spring, a clear, cool stream diverted into a series of granite laundry basins, and we keep an eye open for the water snake that lives there. If we spot him, the excitement is so overwhelming that we need to sit down with some chá (the Portuguese for a cuppa poses few linguistic challenges). Sometimes I take my

'The river shows as flashes of kingfisher blue and bottle green'

pencils out and spend a happy hour drawing on some corner of the estate, sometimes we stroll around the nearby lanes, through straggly hamlets of pretty houses populated by plump, if grubby, children and barking dogs.

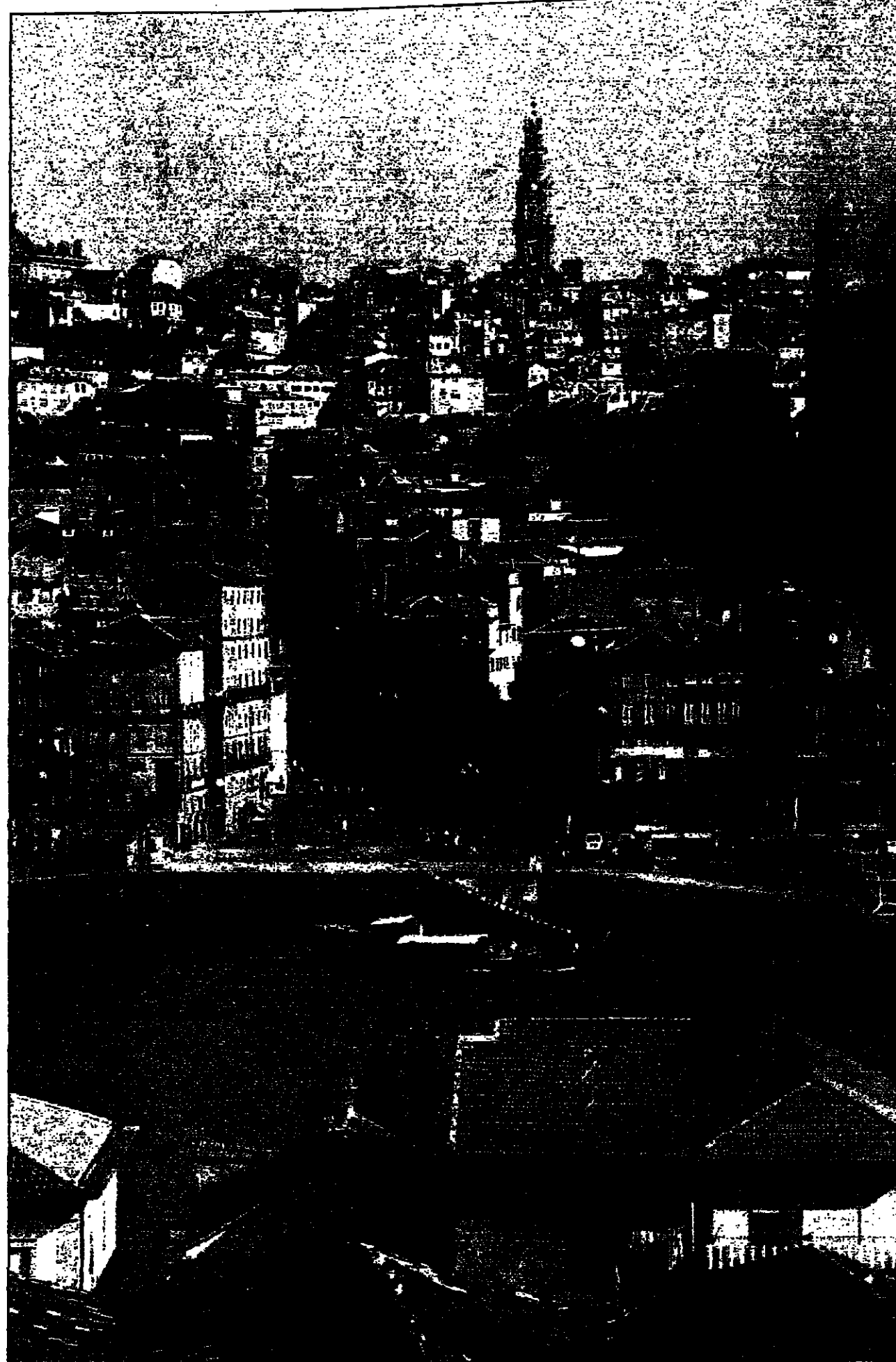
Exploring our surroundings, we are relieved to rediscover much of the unspoilt beauty we remembered from our earlier visit. The countryside is hilly, rising to over 3,000ft in the Serra de Marão. There are also the deep valleys of the Douro, Tâmega and Sousa nearby. Winter rains from the Atlantic make it green, with forests of pine and eucalyptus; gardens are bright with hydrangeas, hollyhocks,

hibiscus, mimosa hedges and a vivid blue convolvulus everywhere. The towns have (like us?) spread around the middle a bit since our last visit, with new suburbs of supermarkets and car showrooms. Town centres are mercifully unchanged, shops and restaurants look prosperous, old houses are being carefully restored.

Amarante is our favourite. It has narrow streets of granite houses and a graceful bridge over the River Tâmega overlooked by the church of St Gonçalo, a saint much interested in fertility and marriage. You can sit on a balcony of the Salon de Chá, or tea room, by the bridge and while away an hour with coffee and a St Gonçalo cake, a local speciality. On the other side of the bridge is the church and, in the old monastery, an art gallery and museum.

We drive home to the quinta on a back road looping high above the river. Looking down, the river shows through the trees as flashes of kingfisher blue and bottle green. On the other bank is a quinta with a red-tiled roof, a swimming pool and a landing stage on the lake-like stretch of water.

The next day the sky is grey so, to avoid driving, we catch the train to Oporto. Once in Oporto the rain starts in earnest and itinerant umbrella sellers appear on every corner. We duck into the Bolsa Palace, the former Stock Exchange, and are taken on a tour of its magnificent rooms. Built to show off Oporto's 19th-century prosperity (and, incidentally, give one in the eye to Lisbon), it is the most breathtaking series of salons and council chambers, grouped around a great glass-domed trading



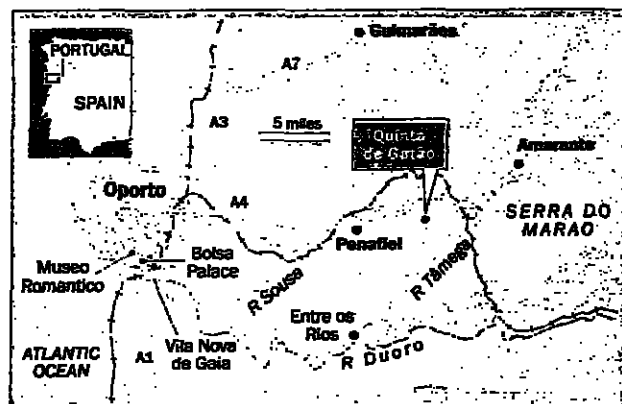
A view over the rooftops of Oporto, a city that prospered in the 19th century and was a serious rival to Lisbon

floor. The grand finale is the shimmering Arabian room, a gilded confection. Sam is impressed by all this, seeing it as a good background against which blood could be spilt in a computer game fantasy.

He is less impressed by our lack of enthusiasm for a visit to the city's Virgin Magistrate, and finds our next visit, to the Museo Românico, a poor second. Set in a beautiful old house in a park, it is dedicated to the memory of Charles, last King of Sardinia, who died there in 1849. Together with a French family, we are shown round by a guide whose sole language is Portuguese, so she is the only one who understands her commentary on the museum's contents.

Arriving back at the apartment, we find a note from Jorge inviting us to join him on a coach tour organised by Penafiel council. We are the only foreigners on a coach of cheerful locals who take our inability to communicate in good part and look after us well. Most older people here speak French and the younger ones English, but an English teacher on the trip avoids us lest her grasp of the language prove imperfect. First we visit the site of an old Celtic settlement near the Douro. The talk here is of a northern Iberian axis, the people of northern Portugal having more in common with their Spanish neighbours in Galicia than with Lisbon and the south.

Then on to a Romanesque



chapel and the lovely house of the chairman of the tourism committee. It is high on the hillside overlooking the river, so faded that we feel that the English general who was quartered there during the Peninsular War might come through the door at any moment.

Later still we are invited to a concert of fado in the little triangular square behind Penafiel's church of Our Lady of Ajuda. The songs are more varied than I expect, some Arab-

influenced, others jaunty with a Latin-American feel. Jorge is not impressed: "In Coimbra, where I come from, the songs are about love and separation, not these Lisbon cabaret songs. And we do not clap."

But sitting outdoors while the sky goes from ultramarine to navy and the church's tile panels glitter in the floodlights, it seems quite perfect.



The River Tâmega at Amarante and church of St Gonçalo

FACT FILE

- Getting there: Tap Air Portugal 0171-828 0263 has fly-drives to Lisbon and Oporto from £149 until March 26 including flights and three days' car hire; two adults must travel together and trips should include a Saturday night. Flights only start from £124 to Lisbon and £148 to Oporto; departures from Heathrow.
- GB Airways (0345 22211), the franchise partner of British Airways, has flights from Gatwick to Lisbon for £112 plus £17.30 tax; tickets must be purchased before September 30 for travel from October 26. Returns to Oporto purchased before September 30 are from £142 plus £17.30 tax for travel between September 21 and October 25.
- Caravela Tours (0171-630 9223), the holiday arm of TAP Air Portugal, offers seven nights' B&B at the four-star Hotel Ofir from £365 per adult, £127 per child (2-12 years). Price includes car hire.
- Extra Holidays (0181-251 0970) has a selection of hotels on the Costa Verde from £325 per person per week including flights and B&B accommodation; children pay from £119.
- Further information from the Portuguese Tourism Office on 0171-494 1441, web site <http://www.portugal.org/tourism>
- Contact Quinta de Gatão direct by calling 00 351 55 732781 (also a fax number).

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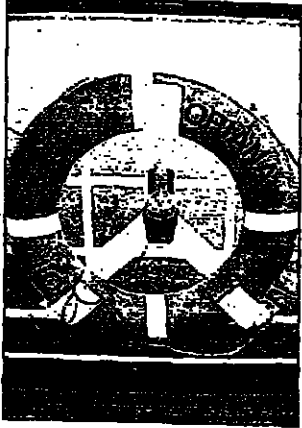
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سكزا من الأهل

Reduced breaks for a quick sail

Cath Urquhart
tries a weekend
cruise to see if
ship life suits her



Buoyed up: P&O's *Oriana*

WHERE DID MY WEEKEND GO?

THE popularity of mini-cruises is growing, as they are both a novel way to spend a long weekend, and give you a chance to see if you would enjoy a longer cruise. So I took my mother, Diana, on a short trip to the Low Countries to see if we liked P&O's three-year-old liner, *Oriana*.

FRIDAY

1.10pm: I meet Diana at Waterloo Station to catch the train for Southampton and am a little annoyed to find that she is a better packer than I am, and has hardly any luggage. She is particularly looking forward to this trip, as she last went on a cruise in the 1950s, aged 12. The boat went from Marseille to Tilbury. She had to share a cabin with three other girls, while her parents shared with another couple. P&O has assured us things are less spartan these days.

2.50pm: We arrive at the terminal and our bags are whisked away by porters. Within ten minutes we have our boarding cards and are waiting in a large departure lounge, where a shop is selling the book of the film *Titanic*.

3.10pm: We are taken to our cabin, a small twin with a compact bathroom, shower and toilet. It's modern, clean, and functional, but a little box-like. It hardly conjures up the romance of cruising.

3.45pm: Our cabin attendant, Neves, introduces himself and asks what time we would like our coffee in the morning. Neves, like many P&O staff, is from Goa, where P&O is one of the largest employers.

4.20pm: We explore the ship. There seems to be hardly anyone around yet.

4.35pm: At the Riviera pool two people are already lying on the sunbeds.

4.48pm: Around the Crystal swimming pool (the water temperature is 38°C) families are having tea and sandwiches. Then we realise that the Conservatory dining room has a big spread on offer — tea, scones, sausage rolls, sandwiches, cakes. It seems rude not to join in. Over tea, Diana tells me a cautionary tale about a distant relative who put her children, unaccompanied, on a six-week cruise from South Africa to London in the 1950s. They put on so much weight that no one recognised them on their arrival.

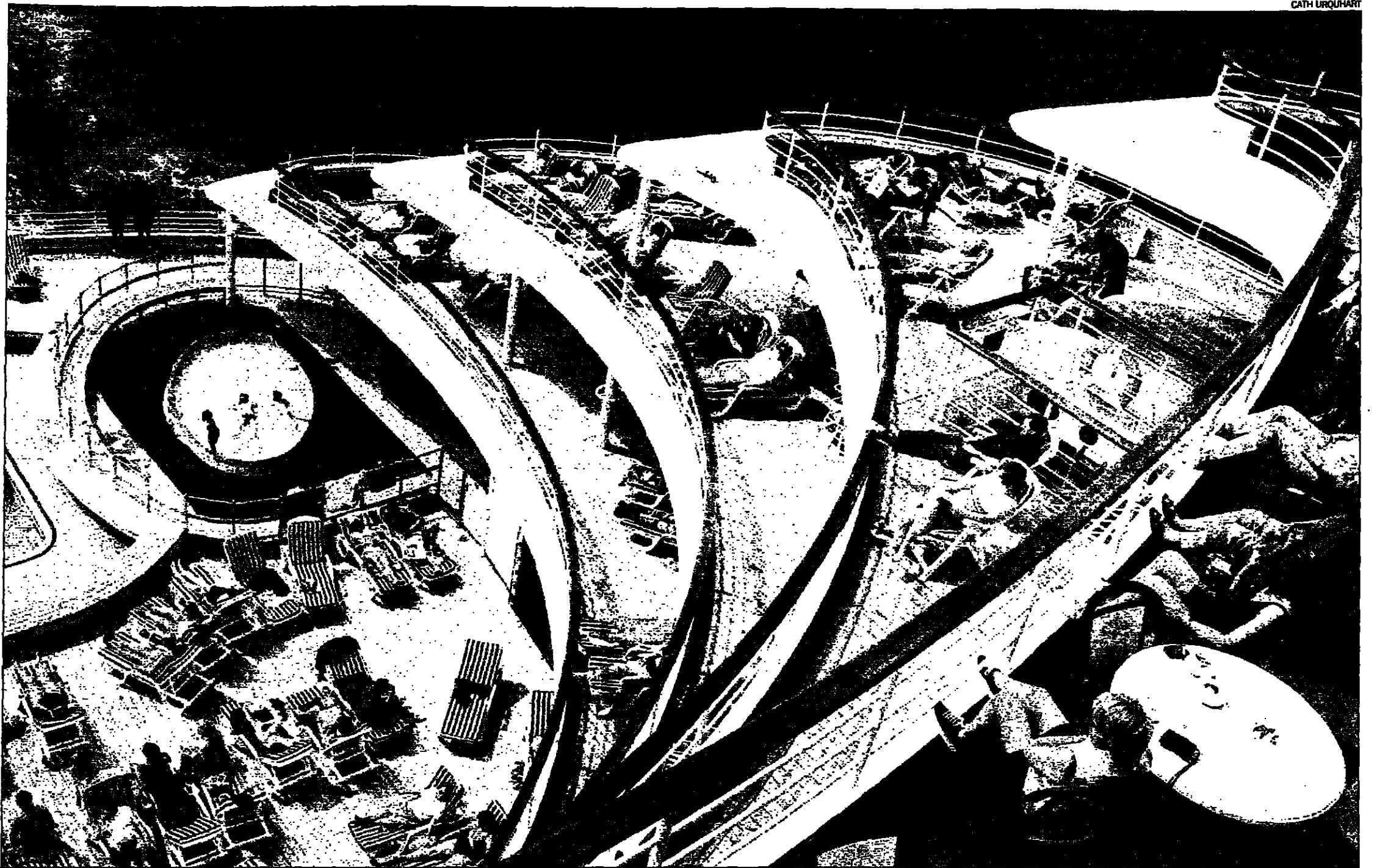
5.30pm: We go to our muster station to learn what to do in emergencies and how to put our lifejackets on.

5.55pm: On the quay below, a marching band plays as we set sail. At the Peninsular Restaurant Balbis, the head waiter, introduces himself. I choose a vegetarian menu of avocado, followed by carrot soup, then vegetable tempura. Competent, if not inspiring, and very promptly served.

11pm: We're both feeling tired so, after a few drinks with new friends, we head for our cabin.

SATURDAY

8am: Neves brings us coffee in bed. Through our cabin's large window we can see one



Sun trap: Passengers soak up the sun on *Oriana's* distinctively shaped decks, which evoke a classic liner from the Thirties. The ship is so big you can always escape to a quiet spot on your own if you prefer

of the Channel Islands — we will be cruising around them today. *Oriana* could complete our itinerary in far less time than four days, so we have to kill some time at sea.

8.50am: We have a self-service breakfast in the Conservatory, which is very busy.

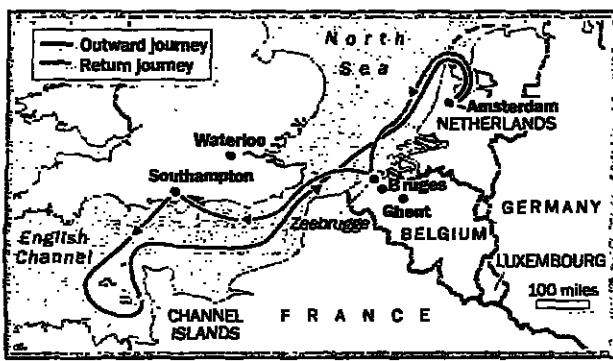
10am: As we have the whole day at sea, we book ourselves into the beauty salon for the morning. I have a manicure and pedicure and emerge £32 lighter, but with enviable glamorous toe and fingernails.

11.50am: I find a sunbed by the Riviera pool and settle down with a good book and my sunglasses. The pool area is enclosed by glass panels so it's a real sun trap. Drinks (not included in the cruise price) are brought to us from the bar.

1.50pm: The sea air has made us hungry and we fetch a curry lunch from the Conservatory. We eat off trays on our sunbeds.

2pm: A disco starts up by the Riviera, shattering the peace of the afternoon.

2.10pm: Organised water games for adults are starting up in the Riviera and the mu-



sic is so loud that we retreat to the next deck and find sunbeds in a quiet spot for the day. 7.45pm: I've lost Diana but met some new friends in Anderson's bar, a cosy but smart pub which is rapidly gaining a reputation, the regular cruisers tell me, as one of the best drinking holes afloat. 8.15pm: At the Captain's drinks party in the Crow's Nest bar I find Diana, who is chatting to Kay and Terry, a couple from Yeovil on their second *Oriana* cruise. 9.30pm: In the loos by the Crow's Nest bar a woman is sponging down her smart two-

SUNDAY

8am: Awoken by Neves with our coffee. We arrived in Amsterdam overnight. Out of our window we can see the city and a windmill, as if to remind us we're in Holland.

10am: We take the ten-minute shuttle bus from the port to Amsterdam's Central Station. We have both visited Amsterdam before so we decide to do our own thing today, rather than join an organised trip.

11am: We walk up from Central Station to Dam Square, stopping to look at the Sunday market, and then on through the centre of Amsterdam to the Van Gogh Museum.

12.20pm: It's heating; there are queues in front of each of the best-known paintings so we go the wrong way round, starting at the top floor, to see things more easily. Van Gogh left about 900 paintings and 1,200 drawings; the museum has 200 of the paintings and 500 of the drawings, the largest collection of Van Goghs in the world. It is stunning, but Sunday is not the best time to visit.

1.25pm: Having fought our way out, we stop for lunch at a nearby café, De Spiegel, and sit in the sun with sandwiches and beer for an hour. It starts raining, so we decide it's time to go shopping. Just down the street are craft and jewellery shops that distract us for some time.

3.30pm: Needing another coffee break, I persuade Diana to try an Amsterdam "coffee house" where dope smoking is allowed. We head for Kadinsky, a central and friendly place where we stick to coffee and secondary inhalation.

4.35pm: We're back at Nieuwe Kerk, on Dam Square, and spend half an hour at the World Press photo exhibition.

5.15pm: Back at the shuttle bus stop from where we are whisked back to *Oriana*.

7.40pm: In full finery, we're in the Crow's Nest for a drink —

we feel cosy watching the rain beat against the windows.

8.30pm: Over dinner the conversation turns to the success of *Titanic*. A fellow passenger has heard that, in America, a new series of ships will have a special platform built so passengers can imitate the Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio pose — arms outstretched — without any danger of falling off the prow. A passenger on a ship in Norway has already died doing this.

11pm: From the Crow's Nest bar we watch the lights of Amsterdam slip away. We move up on to the front of the deck to watch for longer, but it's freezing cold so we don't last long.

MONDAY

9.15am: We're on the coach for our guided tour of Ghent and Bruges with our guides, Paul and Bernadette.

10.30am: We arrive in Ghent and make our way over St Michael Bridge to St Bavo's Cathedral to look at the painted panels of the *Adoration of the Mystic Lamb*, dating from 1432. It is the first depiction of a nude Adam and Eve in western art. The colours are still wonderfully bright.

11.45am: We head back to the coach to set off for Bruges. 12.30pm: Our lunch stop is at Het Bargehuis in Bruges, where we served a passable three-course meal of seafood salad, turkey, and pudding.

2pm: We are guided around the pretty centre of Bruges before taking a 20-minute trip on a tourist boat around the canals. Paul explains the town's history as we walk through to the main square and admire some of the town's oldest buildings: the Gothic town hall and court of justice. We fall in love with pretty Bruges, its winding streets and old town houses. Diana plans to bring my father here for a weekend.

3.30pm: Shopping and more coffee.

5pm: We return to the ship. 7.30pm: We fit in a final visit to the spa for facials, before changing for drinks, followed by another late dinner.

11.45pm: To the casino, which is small and hot. There are crowds around the blackjack and roulette tables, making it rather hard to join a game. I squeeze on to a blackjack table, and, to my great surprise, come away a few bob up. A good way to end the weekend. (We leave tomorrow morning.)

VERDICT

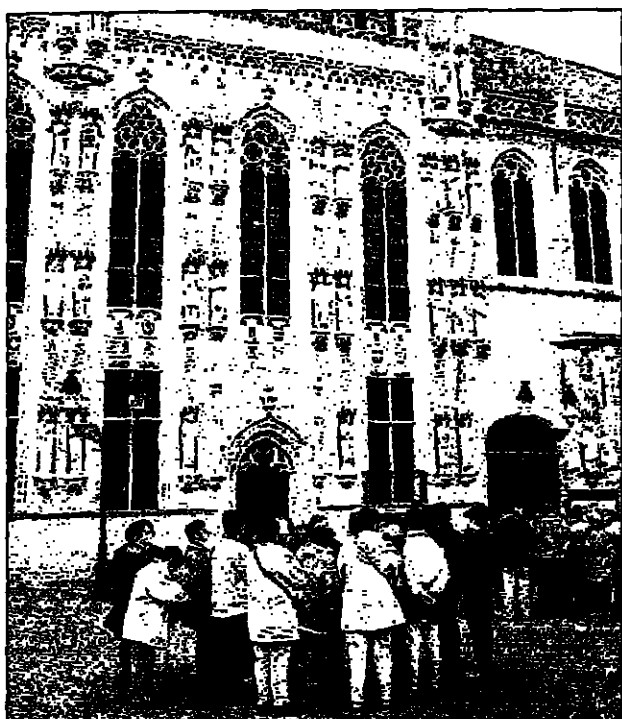
It took most of the weekend to find our way around such a huge ship, and we were certainly never bored. The ship's staff were friendly and the service excellent, and the cabins are clean and comfortable, if a little uniform and "plastic" compared to the classic older liners. The tour of Ghent and Bruges was a little rushed. In retrospect we might have stuck to Bruges and explored on our own. But a long weekend at sea is a great way to find out if you like cruising.



Stay on course: guidebooks for sale on a Bruges street

CRUISING FACTS

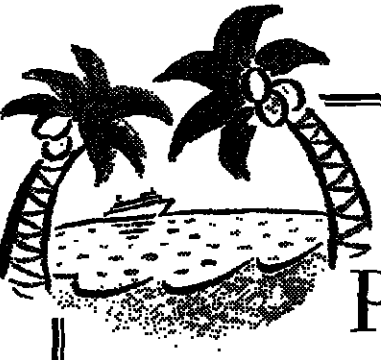
- Cath Urquhart travelled with P&O Cruises (0171-800 2222).
- The next mini-cruise on *Oriana* is a five-night trip, departing on October 1, from Southampton to Spain and France. It costs from £595, based on four sharing an inside cabin; all meals included. The price for two people sharing an inside cabin is £795. There are stop-offs at La Coruña in Spain and La Pallice, a small port next to La Rochelle in France, and Brest. Excursions at each destination cost about £50 for a day and £25 for half a day.
- The next four-night mini-cruise departing from Southampton and stopping at Amsterdam and Bruges leaves on October 2 1999. Prices are from £495 based on four sharing, and £645 for two sharing. The Ghent and Bruges day trip costs £52.



Tourists gathered outside the town hall in Bruges



Diana Urquhart pauses on a bridge in Amsterdam to take a photograph



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TRAVELLERS' BULLETIN BOARD

For sale: a slice of history

Simon Grosset reports on Christie's sale of Arctic and Antarctic memorabilia

Christie's is expecting keen interest in its fifth Exploration and Travel sale next week from the increasing numbers of travellers to Antarctica. The sale, on Thursday, will feature more than 200 items from great expeditions to both the Arctic and Antarctic.

Works of art, memorabilia and documents of the past 300 years have come up for sale from private and public collections all over the world. Prices are expected to range from £400 for a brass coat hook from Captain Scott's cubicle in his Antarctic hut, to £250,000 for a 1785 painting by John Weber (an artist on Captain Cook's third trip to the Pacific) of Krakatau, the small island which was subsequently destroyed by a violent volcanic eruption in 1883.

"We're never quite sure what some of these items will fetch," said Nicholas Lambourn of Christie's. He said that last year Christie's sold a piece of cocoa box and a one-inch square piece of wood from the ship *Endurance* — which took Sir Ernest Shackleton on his ill-fated attempt to cross the South Pole — for £14,000. Christie's had estimated the pieces to fetch £400 together.

"Travellers to the Antarctic — and there are many of them nowadays — get the bug, and they want to buy any kind of memorabilia from the early expeditions," said Mr Lambourn. "They feel that Shackleton's or Scott's charisma has rubbed off on these objects, and that's what they're really buying."

As well as numerous paintings and photographs from Scott's doomed trip to the South Pole, there are artefacts recovered in 1957 from his base camp hut. It wasn't until after the Second World War that attempts were made to check on the condition of various base camps and huts used by the early explorers. Most were found untouched, with stores of food in good condition, reindeer hide sleeping bags still on the bunks and kitchen utensils hanging on the walls.

Some of the more bizarre items in the sale include leather sledging traces from Scott's 1902 Discovery Expedition, a glass beaker, a crucible and a medicine bottle from his 1910 expedition, and two pairs of woollen mittens from the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition of 1955 (whose members recovered some of the items in the sale).

A 1909 wax cylinder recording of Shackleton's voice is expected to sell for more than £1,000. He describes his attempt to reach the South Pole, with sledges pulled by ponies, which were then used for food as the explorers' rations ran out.

• The items in the sale are on view at Christie's, 8 King Street, London W1, tomorrow from 2pm to 5pm, and Monday to Wednesday. Call 0171-389 2153 for more details.



Dramatic photographs such as this one of the doomed 1915 *Endurance* expedition, are among those being auctioned

Elvis lives — in Croatia

DID ELVIS play a gig in Croatia about 25 years ago? For when I was in Dubrovnik last week, I met two 30-something chaps who were both called Elvis, because, as one put it resignedly, "my mother was a big Tom Jones fan".

Elvis No 1 made up for having a silly name by being one of the best tour guides I have encountered. During three hot and tiring hours walking around the compact Old City, we were never bored — Elvis had just the right mix of amusing anecdote and historical snippets to keep us enthralled.

Starting at the Pile Gate in the western wall of the city, he took us to two monasteries, the Rector's Palace and the Baroque cathedral, telling us of the dark street corners that were filled with stone to prevent thieves lurking in them; the arrow slits now home to pigeons; the horse troughs hacked out of the beautiful cloisters in the Dominican Monastery by uncouth Austrian soldiers in the 19th century. He pointed out the city's artistic and cultural gems, which include a couple of Titians, a piece of wood supposedly from the cross of Jesus, and the world's oldest still-functioning pharmacy, built in 1317, within the walls of the Franciscan Monastery. It's the most beautiful place in which I've ever stocked up on sunscreen.

ELVIS No. 2 runs the Panorama Restaurant, tucked away up the maze of alleys to the south of the city. True to its name, it has a stunning view over the Old City and while I did not sample the fare, I spied the most enormous lobster I have ever seen, almost a yard long, sitting on a table awaiting its fate.

I GAVE the giant lobster a miss as I had just had an excellent lunch of seafood risotto

and local Posip wine at Dundo Maroje, a restaurant off Ploca, the main street. Food and prices were almost too good to be true: a vast plate of Dalmatian smoked ham, or pasta with langoustines, for £4.50; fish dishes for £3-£6. What with the Posip and the free brandies dispensed by the friendly owners, it was with difficulty that I mustered the energy to walk the still-complete City Walls.

INEVITABLY conversations in Dubrovnik turn to the war, and in particular the ferocious shelling that reduced parts of the Old City to rubble, reaching its climax on December 6,

1991. There was no "don't mention the war" atmosphere — people were in fact keen to tell their stories. I picked up a copy of a locally published title, *Dubrovnik in War*, and whenever I produced it locals gathered around to point out their house in the background to photos of the shelling. A boatman picked out his boat in a picture of a burning harbour — it had seemingly escaped unscathed. But as we sailed out of Dubrovnik, he showed me the shrapnel holes in the awning.

THAT the Cunard liner *QE2* is making her first-ever call at Dubrovnik on October 28 says everything about the city's recovery. Before the war, some 300 cruise ships would call at Dubrovnik each year; last year about 90 called in, and this year it will be up to 140. Even the last vestiges of Communist-era red tape are disappearing: I met a Kenyan couple who had been told they could not leave their cruise ship to enter Dubrovnik because they did not have visas. After the Croatian official had said his piece and left, they simply slipped ashore — and no one raised an eyebrow.

TRIP WIRES



by Cath Urquhart
TRAVEL EDITOR

Switzerland's big drink

TICKETS go on sale this week for one of the great Bacchanalian events of the century, the Fête des Vignerons, or Winegrowers' Festival, in Vevey, Switzerland. Next August, some half a million visitors are expected to descend on this small winegrowing community on the shores of Lake Geneva for two weeks of lavish theatrical productions, parades, music, dance and, of course, wine drinking. Vevey is usually overshadowed by its more glamorous neighbour, Montreux, but the Winegrowers' Festival, organised by the 400-year old Confédération des Vignerons (the fraternity of wine growers) is expected to attract visitors from all over the world. The production is so complex and at £18 million, so expensive, that it has only been staged five times a century since its origins in the 17th century as a parade and banquet. The last one was in 1977. The only reason it can still take place in its original form, an outdoor pageant in the market square, is that Vevey happens to have the second largest market square in Europe, after Lisbon, seating 16,000 people on specially-built grandstands. Professional composers, script writers and costumers have been working for two years on the production but most of the 4,600 actors, singers and dancers are local people, who will spend every weekend for the next 11 months rehearsing. Everyone involved has to pay between £85 and £480 for their costume.

Twice-daily performances embrace Greco-Roman mythology, pagan rituals, classical and contemporary music, mime, folklore and dance, all set against the backdrop of Lake Geneva and the Swiss Alps. Each show is followed by a huge town festival and on four days, the whole cast parades through the streets. On the morning of August 11, there's a spookily atmospheric performance, *The Reconciliation of the Living and the Dead*, as the sun slides into a 96 per cent eclipse at midday. The Fête des Vignerons takes place from July 29 to August 15, 1999. Tickets cost from £28 to £111 for the performances and £6.50 for the street parade. The town festival is free. For hotel booking details and ticket information, contact Switzerland Tourism on 0171-734 1921 or the Vevey Tourist Office on 0041 21 922 2020. Tickets are bookable on website <http://www.fetedesvignerons.ch>

SUE BRYANT

TRAVELLERS' TIP

TAKE a lightweight wedge to place under your door if you are staying in a hotel in which you feel uneasy about security. Skeleton keys could allow dishonest members of staff access to rooms. I feel more relaxed when I know my door can't be opened easily from outside. — Diana Proud, Winchester

Send your suggestion, in no more than 75 words, on a postcard to: Travellers' Tip, The Lonely Planet

Times Travel Desk, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN, with your name, address and telephone number. If yours is published, you will win the Lonely Planet guidebook and phrase book of your choice.

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RED SEA EXPLORER: 17TH - 27TH NOVEMBER 1998
Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt (Overnight) · Aqaba, Jordan · Safage, Egypt · At Sea · Suez, Egypt · Transit Suez Canal · Ashdod, Israel · At Sea · Kusadasi, Turkey · Piraeus, Greece.

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THREE CONTINENTS & TWO CANALS: 25TH APRIL - 7TH MAY 1999
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VOYAGES OF DISCOVERY
AETHENS · CAIRO & THE PYRAMIDS · WADI RUM · NICOSIA · PALMYRA

Orlando gets better

The bizarre double baggage retrieval at the Florida airport is being abandoned, says Simon Veness

BELEATED good news for British tourists to Orlando International Airport — a \$1.2 billion (£750 million) expansion scheme is under way to eradicate the irritating and time-consuming double baggage retrieval system and the congestion at immigration. Orlando International is one of America's fastest-growing airports, with some 28 million passengers using it annually, and the major carriers from Britain are British Airways and Virgin Atlantic. However, British charter airlines, such as Britannia, Caledonian and Leisure Air, have switched in the past two years to Sanford Airport, 30 miles to the north, in a bid to reduce the arrival inconveniences. Some tour operators may be tempted back to Orlando International by the changes, as it is a 25-minute drive from International Drive, the centre of Orlando, whereas Sanford is a 50-minute drive away. Orlando International will add a new South Terminal to more than double current capacity to 70 million annually, and will have extra facilities to process international passengers. It will also end the bizarre system which requires transatlantic passengers to collect their luggage twice before leaving the airport, for security reasons. Other improvements include the completion of a fourth satellite arm to the North Terminal, improvements in baggage handling, increased parking and more space for car hire firms. However, the improvements will not be immediate. Improvements to the North Terminal should be completed by summer 1999, but the South Terminal project is likely to take three to four years.

TOURISTS will be able to immerse themselves in the scenery of Joy Adamson's book and film *Born Free* when a lodge opens in Kenya's Meru National Park next June. Elsa's Kopje lodge will be the only accommodation in Meru National Park, which is home to abundant wildlife including lions, elephant and buffalo as well as 300 species of birds. Few tourists currently visit Meru, in the north of Kenya, because it is difficult to reach. But more tour operators are expected to offer visits to the park when the lodge — on the site of conservationist camp — opens. It will offer game drives and walking as well as fishing and rafting on the Tana River.

MARRAKESH REVISITED

7 or 14 nights in Marrakesh from £295.00 at the 3-star Hotel Amine or upgrade to the 5-star Semiramis for £10 per night

From November we shall be inaugurating a new flight service from London Gatwick to Sevilla and onwards to Marrakesh. The period November to April is the ideal time to visit Morocco away from the baking heat of summer to the gentler rays of the winter sun in the foot hills of the Atlas Mountains at Marrakesh.

ITINERARY
Fly from London Gatwick with a brief stop at Sevilla to Marrakesh and spend 7 nights at the 3-star Hotel Amine, located close to the entrance of the Imperial City in an oasis like setting amongst majestic 100-year-old palm trees. In this exotic setting is the well laid out swimming pool and the 174 well-appointed rooms are air-conditioned with full en suite facilities, telephone, satellite TV, and balcony. The public facilities include a lovely restaurant, sun terraces, bars and comfortable lounge. You may upgrade to the 5-star Hotel Semiramis located in a quiet position with the swimming pool area set in lush gardens. The 181 rooms are large with full en suite facilities, satellite TV, telephone, mini bar, balcony, and air-conditioning. There are four restaurants, the Aladdin bar which opens to the garden, two tennis courts, golf practice as well as a splendid lounge.

DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES
Monday 19/09/99 - per person at the Hotel Amine
Nov 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 £295 - Dec 7, 14, 21, 28* £295
January 4, 11 £295 - January 18, 25 £315
February 1, 8, 15 £295 - February 22 £365
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29* £300 - April 5, 12, 19 £340

* Christmas, New Year & Easter flight supplement £85. Single suppl. £70 per week - Extra Week £180 twin. Upgrade to the Hotel Semiramis - add £10 per night.

Includes: transportation throughout, half-board accommodation in Marrakesh, services of local guides, UK departure tax. Not included: Marrakesh airport tax, travel insurance, tips. Our current Conditions of Booking (available on request) shall apply to all reservations.

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TRAVEL TIPS

TRAVEL JOURNAL OF THE MONTH

Take your art apartment

Kipton

31

La Réunion

a week on the road with an optional week

سكنا من الاصل

TRAVELLERS' BULLETIN BOARD

TRAVEL TIPS by Jill Crawshaw



TRAVEL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Fine art apartment

IF you like the idea of renting one of Venetian Apartments' (0181-878 1130) properties in Venice, don't bother with the brochure: just go along to the Canaletto Exhibition at the National Gallery. Track down the painting of *The Stonemason's Yard*, and you can see your prospective pad if you look carefully at the building with the arched windows on the right. It's now a luxury apartment, the Campo San Vidal, and it comes complete with marble bathrooms, Jacuzzis and air-conditioning. It costs £1,425 for a week and sleeps up to five people — cheaper than some hotels. Those who prefer literary associations can rent the Sitwell family's private 16th-century home with canal views and antique four-poster beds, the Casa dell' Albergo. It costs £1,495 per week and sleeps six. ● The Canaletto Exhibition is at the National Gallery until October 11, then moves on to York and Swansea. Admission is free. Open Monday-Saturday 10am to 6pm (Wed to 8pm); Sunday noon to 6pm.

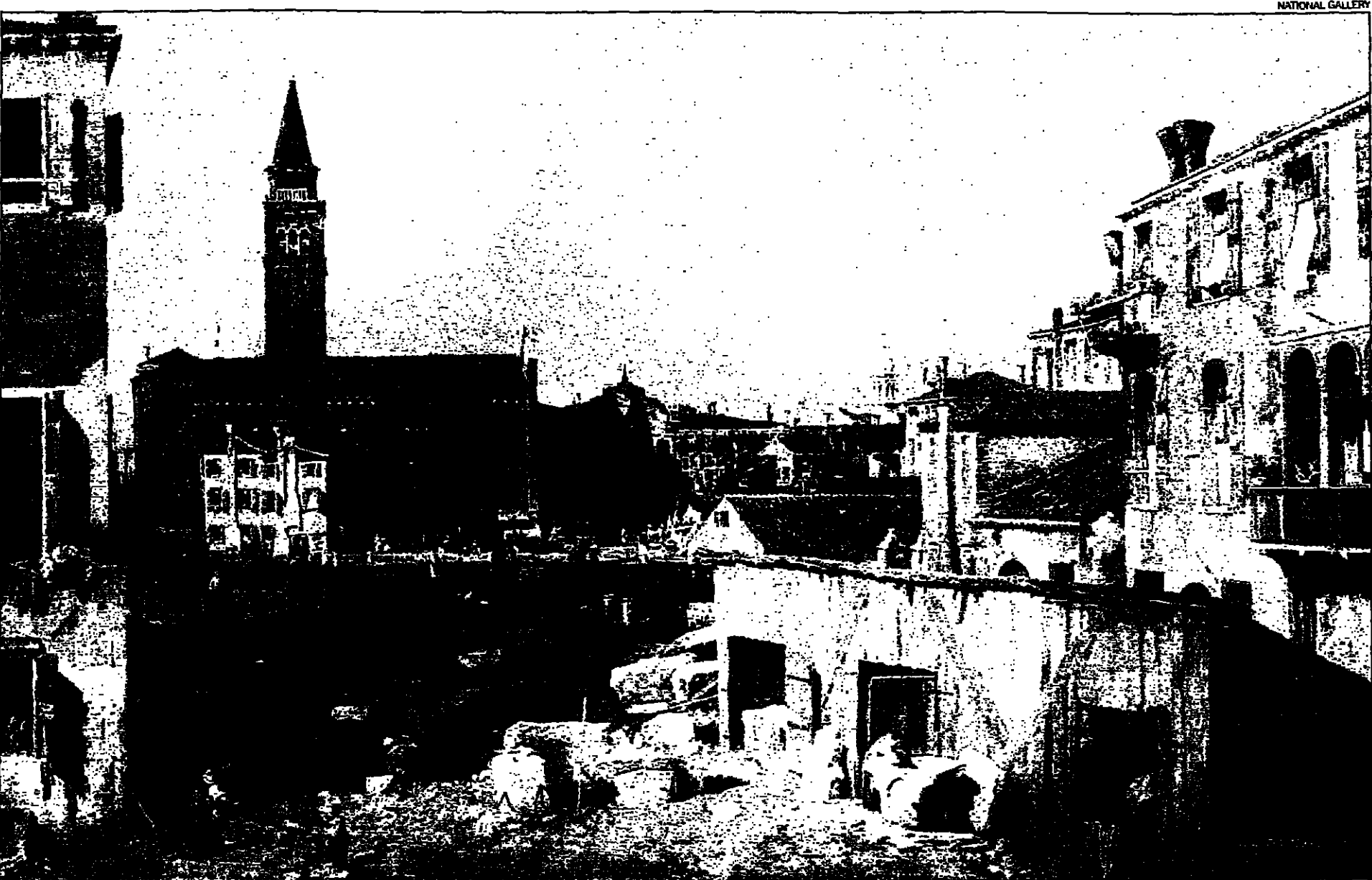
Take the plunge

OVER-50s who want to fathom the secrets of the deep, without getting caught up in the often macho culture of young divers, can try new learn-to-snorkel holidays in the Red Sea at the resorts of Sharm el Sheik or the less-than-lovely Hurghada, Egypt. Regal Holidays (01353 778096) organises the snorkelling weeks in November and December and they cost £349 for flights, B&B, five days' snorkelling, tuition and hire of equipment. Anyone who wants to plunge further can take a free try-dive.

Kipling capers

RUDYARD Kipling enthusiasts can follow the trail of Mowgli in Bales' World-wide's (01306 884397) new Jungle Book Explorer tour to India, focusing on sighting Mowgli's greatest enemy, the wicked "Shere Khan" tiger. The 19-day itinerary takes in Jungle Camp of Bandhavgarh, followed by a stay at Camp Kipling in Kanha National Park, setting for the Kipling classic and one of the bases of Project Tiger, a conservation programme. A visit to Tiger Top's Karnali Lodge in Nepal and a night in Delhi are also included on the tour. Cost is £3,195 for flights, entrance fees and mainly full-board accommodation.

THE ideal present for a rail-buff: a drive-a-steam-train course on which drivers take charge of an express or freight locomotive on a stretch of discontinued main line at Loughborough. Great Central Railway (01509 230726) offers three one-day courses: "Bronze" (£195), which includes a drive shared with another trainee in an engine without coaches; "Silver" (£350), in a locomotive pulling a train of coaches; and "Gold" (£1,250), on which you get your own "fat controller", a duty traffic manager, guard, fireman, signaller and stationmaster while you make four round-trips of 64 miles.



Don't bother with the apartment brochure, see your prospective Venice pad by taking in the Canaletto exhibition at the National Gallery, which features *The Stonemason's Yard* (detail)

Singles choice

SINGLES specialist Sovereign Small World (0990 768373) offers all sorts of holidays for lone travellers: house parties in villas and farms; laid-back holidays in small hotels; and independent trips for those who prefer to do their own thing during the day, but don't want to be a Shirley Valentine in the evening in a restaurant full of couples. New destinations include the Venezuelan island of Margarita, where two-week full-board independent holidays cost from £854. A skiing house party has also been introduced to Courchevel in France; a half-board chalet week costs from £439.

Touch of class

There will be nostalgia aplenty on Sunday afternoons at The Savoy (0171-420 2356)

between now and Christmas: the London hotel has brought back its tea dances, famous in the Twenties and Thirties, when ladies in "afternoon dress with hats" and their partners tripped the light fantastic to the strains of resident band leader Victor Sylvester. Any woman wearing a hat will be given a complimentary glass of champagne — if she wears a genuine tiara, the hotel tells me, she'll get a full bottle. Tickets cost £26.50.

FAMILIES who want to do something a little more exciting than turkey and repeats of *Only Fools and Horses* this Christmas could join Travelbug's Thailand Family Adventure, a 15-day trip leaving on December 19. Designed to appeal to the whole family, the tour isn't overloaded with visits to temples, but offers

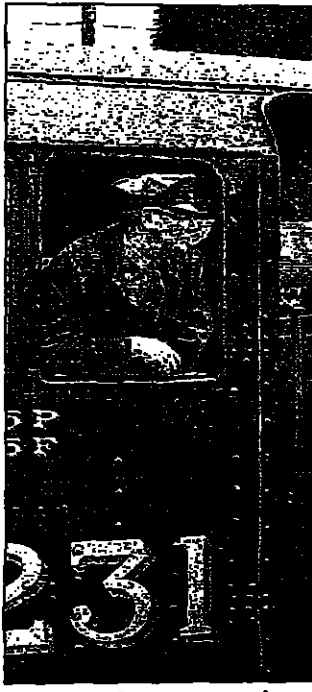
opportunities to go elephant trekking, visit hilltribe villages and relax on the island of Ko Samet, where you spend Christmas Day. Trips cost £1,295 per adult, £995 per child (aged 5-12), which includes flights and mainly B&B accommodation. Call 01420 541007.

Wild for water

HOUSEBOATS moored at Marathon in the Florida Keys offer theme park fugitives a glimpse of real manatees, sea turtles, bald eagles and great white herons in the 500 square miles of mangrove and eerie primeval wilderness known as

the Back Country, a natural marine laboratory of rare interdependent species. There is sailing, diving and fishing — with charters, equipment and tuition available for hire at the marina. Accommodation comes with fully equipped kitchens, telephones and TV. A week costs from

£669, including flights and car hire. The houseboat week can be combined with other Florida fly-drive and resort-based holidays from Unjet (0990 336330). ● Travel articles in The Times since January are on our Internet site. See "Most Recent" links on <http://www.the-times.co.uk>



All aboard: a steam engine driver waits for the signal

FLYING VISITS	
Departures: Monday, September 14	Lowest available published fares for return flights
Route	Promotional Fare
Shanghai - Amsterdam	from £129 KLM UK
London - Amsterdam	from £118 Easyjet (ex-Luton)
London - Barcelona	from £98 Easyjet (ex-Luton)
London - Belfast	from £96 JEA (ex-Gatwick/Stursted)
London - Copenhagen	£77 SAS (ex-Heathrow)
London - Liverpool	from £98 Easyjet (ex-Luton)
London - Lisbon	from £100 Go (ex-Stursted)
London - Nice	from £98 Easyjet (ex-Luton)
London - Palma	from £98 Easyjet (ex-Luton)
London - Rome	from £100 Go (ex-Stursted)

Go rambling in Las Ramblas: Bridge Travel Service (01992 456177) is offering two nights' B&B at the San Agustín hotel in Barcelona starting at £263 per person; or at the Ambassador hotel from £283 per person. Both prices include return flights from Heathrow and taxes but not transfers. Valid until October 31; departs daily.

Berlin's Cultural Festival, which started this week, runs until October 5. German Travel Centre Ltd (0181-429 2900) is offering one night's accommodation only, return flights and taxes, for £165 per person. Departs daily from Gatwick.

Byways Bike Breaks (0151-722 8050) is offering trips to Cheshire and the North Shropshire Merts. Three nights' B&B, bike hire, detailed routes and maps start at £110 per person, including luggage transfers. Valid throughout September and October.

Rough and ready: Accommodation Overseas (0181-977 2984) is offering seven nights' Jeep and action camping safari in southwest Turkey. Off-road driving, boat trips, trekking, river kayaking, camping and swimming will be available during the trip, which starts at £449 per person including return flights from Gatwick, transfers, and full board including five nights' camping, two nights' hotel accommodation. Departs September 28.

Don't get blown away: Natural Heights (0181-682 8990) specialises in kite flying holidays and offer daily tuition and use of kites. Departing on September 24 from Gatwick, seven nights' B&B in Burgau, Western Algarve in Portugal starts at £400 per person, including tuition, tax and transfers.

Fond of fine wines? Arblaster & Clarke Wine Tours (01720 893344) is offering a "Wines of Rioja and Navarra" tour. Four nights' B&B, including five meals with wine, visits to Bodegas, tastings and the services of an expert wine guide is £799 per person. Departs from Heathrow on September 21. Tax and transfers are also included.



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JOANNA HUNTER

Beyond Borobudur

In the best traditions of expedition cruising we shall again be setting off for the distant and little-known remote islands which will form our stepping stones from Singapore to the island of Java: Islands which appear as a tiny dot on the most sophisticated atlas and whose description you are unlikely to find detailed in even the most comprehensive of guide books. We will sail from one end of Java to the other, visiting the colonial city of Cirebon and the great Buddhist site at Borobudur in the central region. In the East of Java we will drop anchor off Probolinggo early in the morning for those who would like to climb up the lower slopes of the holy Mt Bromo to witness the spectacle of first light.

Leaving Java we will head in an easterly direction to the islands of Kangean, Santonda and Komodo (famous for its dragons). Our penultimate call will be to the fascinating island of Lombok with its intriguing blend of Hindu-Balinese and Muslim-Sasak cultures. Finally, we shall reach Bali an enchanting land, where green hillsides rise into sculptured ricefields. Life, art and religion are intertwined making this one of the greatest cultural jewels in the world. Bali's defiance against changing its ways is a refreshing surprise in view of the enormous pressure that comes from being one of the leading resort islands in the world.

OCEANIC ODYSSEY
Designed in Holland and built in Japan in 1989, the 'Oceanic Odyssey' is a small deluxe vessel accommodating up to 115 passengers. Her captain, officers and management are European and the crew are Indonesian. All cabins are elegantly furnished with sleeping and living areas, mini bar and VCR. The bathrooms have tub baths and showers. The public areas are beautifully decorated and include a lounge bar, cafe and day lounge which leads out onto the island. The bedrooms have tub baths and showers.

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THE ITINERARY
Day 1 London Heathrow to Singapore. Evening departure with Singapore Airlines.
Day 2 Singapore. Arrive and drive to the Oceanic Odyssey. Embark and sail.
Day 3 Borneo Islands. In June 1994 Noble Caledonia's passengers became the first ever British cruisers to visit these beautiful, untouched Indonesian islands. We will spend our time visiting the smaller islands with their lovely beaches and rainforest-clad hills. Here you can swim, snorkel and beachcomb or join a Zodiac circumnavigation of Palau Senuha looking out for hawksbill turtles, turtle tracks and nests, beautiful coral heads and brightly coloured fish as well as white bellied sea eagles, grey herons and black naped terns.
Day 4 At sea.
Day 5 Pulau Kabatu. This tiny island situated halfway between Borneo and Sumatra makes for a fascinating port of call. Explore the village of tiny thatched houses and watch the fishermen repairing their nets and drying fish. This is a delightful place so far off the beaten track that it is unlikely that any large ship has moored here since our call last year.
Day 6 Cirebon (Java). Our first call on the island of Java will be at Cirebon, a fascinating and little visited city and the island's only 16th century Islamic city-state to have survived to the present day with its palaces and royal families intact. See Independence House, the Sultan's Palace and the Archaeological Museum. Later drive into the countryside to the village of Trusmi where some of the finest batik is made.
Day 7 Semarang (Java). Drive up into the hills to Borobudur, the world's largest Buddhist monument. Built in the 8th century, some 300 years before Angkor, a visit here leaves a lasting impression. In the afternoon we will see some of the sights of Semarang including the old Dutch colonial quarter and the great Chinese temple of Gedong Suro.
Day 8 At sea.
Day 9 Probolinggo (Java). Arrive in the early hours of the morning. We hope to organise an early morning visit to the holy Mount Bromo (weather permitting). Later we explore this beautiful region of North-East Java.
Day 10 Kangean Islands. On every cruise

in this region we like to include at least one call at a new and unknown place. Recently we made our first call at the Kangean Islands which are situated approximately 160 miles north of Java. It is an amazing and totally untouched group of islands. In the afternoon we will drop anchor near Pulau Seridi Nel, a small coral island, surrounded by a huge coral reef. We will launch the zodiacs and explore the marvelous reef. Day 11 Medang/Santonda. During our morning stop off the island of Medang there will be the opportunity to explore the reef or Zodiac to the village and see the Algor algae aqua culture plantation. In the afternoon we will go ashore to Santonda, a sacred island which is a collapsed caldera with a beautiful crater lake. Its fringe reef is renowned for the variety of its marine life, especially the many colourful soft corals. Day 12 Komodo. This entire island is a National Park, set aside to preserve one of the most remarkable creatures on earth - the Komodo Dragon. More than ten feet long and weighing over 300 lbs, an adult dragon is a voracious vision from the Jurassic Period. Day 13 Lombok. Bali's quiet neighbour is a delightful island. We will visit a Sasak Village, see some of the traditional weavers at work and then drive to the Water Palace at Narmada built by King Mataram in 1805. Day 14 Bali. Disembark after breakfast for a morning sightseeing tour before transferring to the Bali Hilton Hotel where accommodation has been reserved for an overnight stay. Day 15 Bali. Day at leisure until early afternoon transfer to the airport in time for the return flight to London via Singapore. Or extend your stay in Bali for an additional two nights. Day 16 London Heathrow. Arrive in the morning.

PRICES PER PERSON
In a Twin Bordered or Queen Size Double

Cat 1	Deck 3 Two beds	£3690
Cat 2	Deck 4 Two beds	£3990
Cat 3	Deck 5 Two beds	£4190
Cat 4	Deck 6 Two beds (Veranda)	£4590
Cat 5	Deck 6 Suite	£5590

Single Occupancy of a Double Cabin

Cat 1	Deck 3	£4090
Cat 2	Deck 4	£4290
Cat 3	Deck 5	£4890
Cat 4	Deck 6 (Veranda)	£5890

Price includes: Economy Class air travel, 12 nights aboard the Oceanic Odyssey on full board, 1 night at the Bali Hilton on breakfast only basis, shore excursions, entrance fees, port taxes, transfers, expedition team and guest speakers, UK departure tax. Not included: Travel insurance, airport taxes, gratuities.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS
Telephone 0171-409 0376
(7 days a week during office hours)
Brochureline 0171-355 1424
(24 hours)

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La Réunion - Treasure Island

a week on the tropical Indian Ocean island of La Réunion
with an optional week-long extension to neighbouring Mauritius

We have concluded an arrangement with the Paris based scheduled airline AOM to fly our passengers non-stop from Paris by wide-bodied aircraft to the "Treasure Island" of La Réunion in the Indian Ocean with connecting flight to and from Paris via London-Heathrow. A visit to the tropical La Réunion introduces the traveller to a beautiful and where there is island of great diversity and beauty where outside the island the tourist is hard to find. If you have been seeking that elusive combination of a winter sun and a hot climate, La Réunion is for you. It is a destination where you can relax and where there is much of great beauty to see and explore, besides being at an affordable tariff. Then La Réunion is for you. Following the week long stay on La Réunion you may take the twenty-minute flight to Mauritius and spend a further week at the 4-star Hotel Les Pavillons. Our optional week-long extension to Mauritius includes accommodation, Le Grand Hotel des Mascareignes at the coastal resort of St Gilles-les-Bains. The hotel has the coastal resort of St Gilles-les-Bains, restaurant, large swimming pool, terraces, gardens, facilities and bar and all rooms are large with en suite facilities and fully air-conditioned. Here you may relax, soak up the sun or explore the nearby great houses, gardens, grottoes, waterfalls, lush forests. Creole architecture and Tamil temples are scattered throughout the island.

7 or 14 nights, from £795

DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES
1998/99 Tuesdays - per person in twin
Nov 3, 10, 17, 24, 28, 29
Dec 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 28, 29 - Jan 5, 12, 19, 26, 27, 28, 29
Feb 2, 9, 16, 23, 28, 29 - Mar 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 28, 29
Apr 6, 13, 20, 27, 28, 29

Single Supplement £240. Extra Week £340 twin, £580 single. Xmas/New Year/Easter Suppl £85.
Week Extension on Mauritius £455 per person in twin, £695 in a single.

Inclusions: 7 nights half board at the hotel, transportation throughout, knowledgeable local guides, UK departure tax, Net Booked, insurance, overseas airport tax, tips. Our current Conditions of Booking (available on request) shall apply to all reservations.

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Ivies lives in Croatia



letter Bet...

REVISITED

Travel companies say we complain too much but many of us do encounter problems on holiday. Tom Chesshyre reports

When it all goes wrong

Make a fuss and make it work



"Blame it on the Bellboy" — until, of course, you happen to be booked into one for a two-week holiday

A disaster-prone hotel with inept staff is always good for a laugh, as in *Blame It On The Bellboy* — until, of course, you happen to be booked into one for a two-week holiday

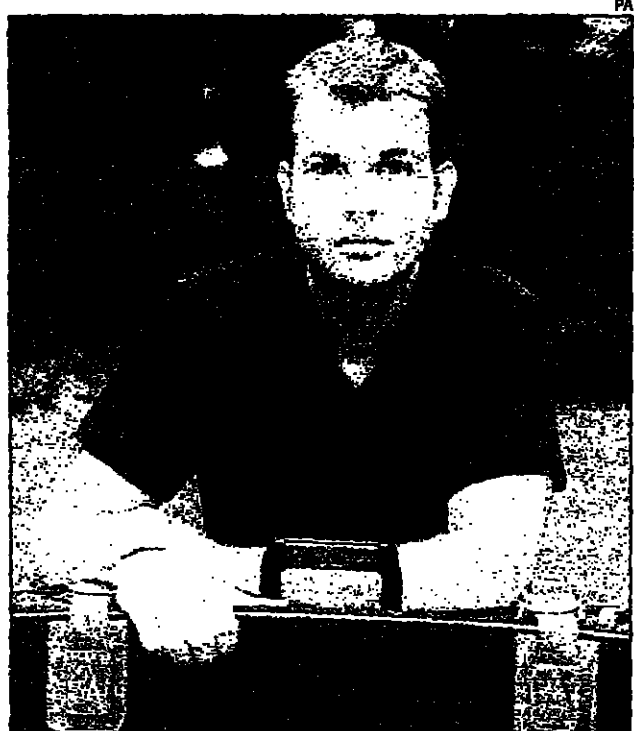
You've saved all year for two weeks in the sun, only to discover your package holiday did not live up to expectations. The "dazzling white, Moorish hotel with extensive subtropical gardens" described in the brochure was not quite as dazzling and its gardens not quite as extensive as the slightly blurred accompanying photographs made out.

You also had no idea that "full of local atmosphere" would mean lager louts staggering about chanting football songs. And, as far as you can recall, the brochure had not mentioned scuttling cockroaches on the terrace and oafish builders drilling by the pool.

As the summer season draws to a close, tens of thousands of disgruntled holiday-makers will be putting pen to paper to complain to tour operators about problems experienced on trips abroad: it is estimated that operators fork out refunds of more than £3 million each year.

Admittedly, few claimants will have suffered the triple whammy of lager louts, cockroaches and noisy builders, but many will have had serious letdowns.

Take, for example, Philip



Philip Rowlands: complained about his "old age" hotel

Rowlands and his girlfriend, Louise Sutton, a young couple from Manchester, who were shocked by what they found at their three-star hotel, the Residence Fabiola, near Magaluf in Majorca, where they stayed

A WHINGE TOO FAR

We asked tour companies for examples of their more unusual customer complaints:

- LOST FOR WORDS**
 - The waiters in France didn't speak English.
 - My husband lost his dentures while snorkelling.
 - Turkey was too hot for my artificial leg.
 - Even though I don't have children, I should have been given a children's game pack.
 - The waiters were more friendly to Anthea Turner
- WHEN SHE VISITED ON WISH YOU WERE HERE**
 - Your rep was as useful as a chocolate fireguard.
 - The beach was described as a stone's throw away, but even Fatima Whitbread couldn't have reached it.
 - We skipped the soup so we could beat the flies to the main course.
- I'M CANCELLING BECAUSE I'M PREGNANT THROUGH NO FAULT OF MY OWN**
 - BEST MALAPROPISMS
 - I strongly object to being used as a prawn in your chess game.
 - There was no way we were putting our baby in that contraception.
 - I've had enough, I'm calling Dogwatch.



to complain, and that there is now an unhealthy "whinging Pom" complaint culture.

Tour operators say there is a growing trend among holiday-makers to search out problems just so they can write letters asking for compensation. More travellers than ever, they say, are taking notebooks on trips to record petty, often unavoidable, faults.

A spokeswoman for one mainstream tour operator said: "Some people blatantly tell our reps at the beginning of the holiday that they will try to find something wrong with it. People complain about absolutely anything."

She pointed to this summer's widely reported decision by Judge Anthony Cleary to award three families minimal damages after he visited the hotel in Malta that they had complained about. He concluded that the families had exaggerated their dissatisfaction, sometimes to an extent that was "unattractive and unworthy".

Nevertheless, it is clear that many holiday-makers have genuine complaints. Even the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA), which represents operators, admits this. "Many people have high expectations — too high — when they go on holiday," said a spokeswoman. "But many are also justified in making complaints."

Anne Harvey, research manager at *Holiday Which?*, said: "People are better informed about their legal rights now than they were ten years ago and are more willing to complain about poor accommodation, flight delays and inaccurate brochure descriptions. Unfortunately, many operators remain unwilling to offer adequate compensation."

Should you experience real problems on your holiday, our guide, right, will help you get your complaint right.

SPECIAL OFFER

from **£499**

HONG KONG, BANGKOK + BEACH

12 nts (3 Hong Kong, 3 Bangkok, 6 Cha Am)

STANFORD, Hong Kong: excellent medium class hotel in Kowloon. Restaurants, bar. Airconditioned rooms: minibar, TV, phone, bath/shower. (Single rooms: shower only).

ASIA, Bangkok: good medium class hotel, good location. Swimming pool, fitness room, Restaurants, bar.

Airconditioned rooms: TV, phone, bath/shower.

REGENT, Cha Am: charming 1st class hotel on long sandy beach. Swimming pool, tennis, squash. Restaurants, bar.

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The price includes: Scheduled flights/Headrow, UK Dept. tax, £20, 12 nts accom (no meals). Transfers. Price per person sharing twin. Not included: Local dept tax (HKG, \$3 approx, Thailand: \$5 approx), Optional insurance: £50. Booking conditions apply.

To book, telephone (opens daily inc Sat/Sun) **01306 744300**

Fax: 01306 744354

ABTA 2528X ATOL 172

The Travel Collection
Deerpine House, Dorking, Surrey RH5 4AZ

You land in Paris but your luggage goes to Tokyo. Jeannette Hyde explains what to do

Lost, stolen or strayed

YOU can always spot the poor travellers whose luggage has been lost by an airline. They are the ones in jeans, jumpers and trainers, looking self-conscious in the restaurant, or else they are sunbathing on the beach in their underwear. Here is our guide to surviving the experience.

IF you are travelling with a partner, pack half your belongings in each other's cases, so if one bag goes missing you both have something to wear.

MARK your luggage with distinctive stickers or strap a bright belt around it to reduce the chances of another passenger taking it in error. At check-in, make sure it has the correct destination label.

HAVE your belongings covered by insurance — either travel insurance, or the all-risks section of your household contents cover — because if your luggage disappears, airline payouts are unlikely to cover the loss of the goods.

UNDER the terms of the Warsaw Convention, airlines are only obliged to pay you \$20 (about £14) per kilo of luggage lost. When you consider that most suitcases carry 20 kilos, that is just £280 — hardly likely to cover the cost of one decent jacket or suit. Pack valuable items — jewellery, camera, a smart dress or jacket — in your carry-on luggage.

KEEP receipts for new clothes at home to help with any insurance claim.

IF your luggage fails to appear on the carousel, inform the airline's customer service desk before leaving the baggage hall and fill in a property irregularity report (PIR). Be as detailed as possible about the contents of the bag. About 90 per cent of baggage is traced within 24 hours and the airline should bring it to your home or hotel.

AIRLINE policies for helping

You're only really covered with

WORLD COVER

ANNUAL TRAVEL INSURANCE

01306 744300

HOW TO COMPLAIN

The basics: The most important holiday law comes under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations (1992) which says that holidays should run smoothly and that accommodation should be as described in the brochure.

If it is not, you should receive compensation.

The key proviso is that you should always complain at the time something goes wrong, otherwise you have not allowed the operator the opportunity to put things right. Not doing so can affect the amount of compensation that the operator has to pay.

Changes before departure: The law also says that holiday-makers should be informed as quickly as possible if operators make any last-minute changes to essential parts of your holiday — such as flight times or accommodation. If you decide to cancel because of a change, you should be compensated and receive a refund. However, this only applies to a "significant" change.

Generally speaking, a "significant" change is likely to be something such as a flight being put back six hours so that it is departing in the middle of the night, or your accommodation being switched from one resort to another; for example, from a quiet place to a noisy, disco-packed area. If you go ahead with the holiday or take an alternative trip with the same company, write to the operator accepting the change "under protest".

Flight delays: Tour operators are not legally obliged to compensate you for delays, although some offer up to £20 for charter flight delays of more than 12 hours. Most travel insurance also covers delays of over 12 hours; normally £20-£25. It may be worth writing to an airline following a long delay to explain the inconvenience and cost you incurred and asking for compensation in the interests of good customer relations — it is not, however, obliged to pay you anything. In extreme cases in which you feel the airline has not done enough, you can take the matter to the small claims court.

How much should I claim? Be realistic. Do not ask for a full refund because you have been put in a three-star rather than a four-star hotel. Work out the difference in value, then estimate how much loss of enjoyment you have suffered. Add on extra expenses — for example, taxi fares if the hotel was further out of town than the one you originally booked.

Should all else fail: If you have nowhere after about two months of correspondence, you can call in the services of a third party to decide the outcome of your claim.

If the operator is a member of ABTA (0171-637 2444), you can try its arbitration process — which costs £64.63 for claims of up to £1,500 per person. Alternatively, you can take the operator to the small claims court; issuing a summons will cost between £10 and £80 for claims of up to £3,000 (you do not normally need a solicitor in such circumstances).

ILLNESS AND INJURY

Illness and injury: Operators are responsible for injuries and illness (for example, food poisoning) caused by a hotel or any other contractor they use. Alert the rep to the problem and keep copies of medical reports.

Letters of complaint: Write to the operator with your claim within 28 days of returning. Letters should be succinct, highlighting exactly how you feel the operator broke its contract with you, ie, how the trip ended up being different from how it was described in the brochure.

Provide evidence: Use photographs and typed copies of notes. Steer clear of hyperbole, sarcasm, lots of capital letters and exclamation marks — it usually just inflames the situation, making your operators less sympathetic. It is also worth noting that correspondence can drag on, so try to keep your cool if it does.



Passengers ready to depart: many will return disappointed

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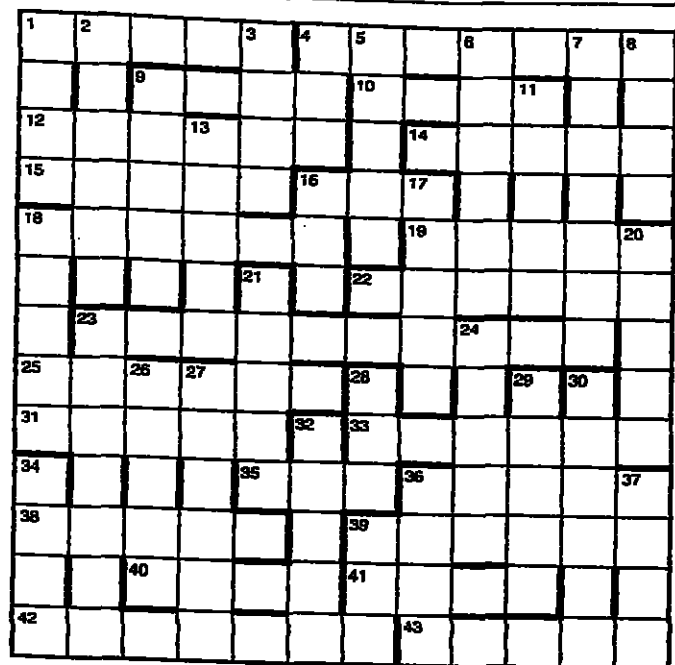
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FOR BOOK

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No. 3479: Belt Up by MynoT



LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3479 in association with Waterstones

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to: The Listener Crossword No 3479, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, by Thursday, September 24.



The winner will receive a Waterstones book token worth £75. Five runners-up will each receive a book token worth £10.

Waterstones first opened a bookshop in 1982, and now has a branch in almost every major town and city in the UK and Ireland. Each of its 100-odd branches has at least 50,000 titles in stock and can order any book currently in print in the UK. Out-of-Print Booksearch, 01892 527700. Mailing Service and Signed First Editions, 01225 448596. For your nearest branch of Waterstones call 01225 448595.

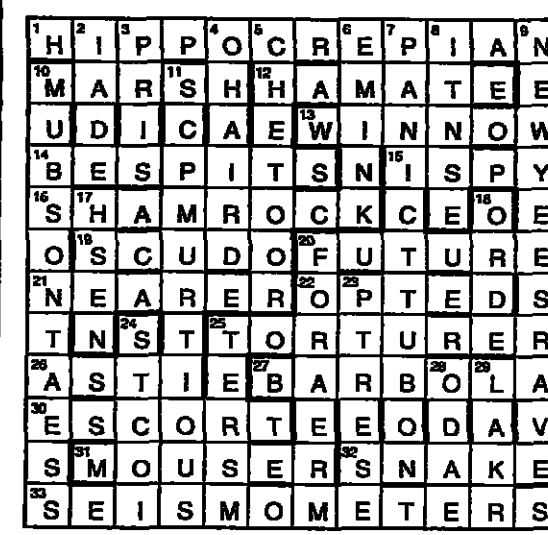
The unclued light at 23 across should fall naturally into place: to avoid confusion, however, solvers are requested to sign their entries.

ACROSS

- 1 Castrato's without issue — trouble follows (5)
- 4 Attribute for the thing meant getting me both ways (7)
- 9 Car's before them to perform — by the grace of God (4)
- 10 After a short time one Liberal will cause trouble (4)
- 12 It sounds like ancestral name lacking hints of title and illegitimate children (6)
- 14 Returning plough, unknown to the French (5)
- 15 Wicket's square design (5)
- 16 Nut with fur round about (3)
- 18 Take a (sort of) horse to water and find a flower (6)
- 19 Start to receive help at end of nervous seizures (5)
- 22 Shrink unknown cloth (6)
- 23 See preamble
- 25 Arranging about Rose, transformed in disguise (6)
- 31 Grandmother's new coin (an old one) (5)
- 33 City opening providing digestion (6)
- 35 Thus, perhaps, leaves key's tone together with note (3)
- 36 Make drunk partners in drink (5, two words)
- 38 Sweepers give nothing away to obtain conductive materials (5)
- 39 Shudders after mass disturbances (6)
- 40 Roof-gutter for bay, with spots on (4)
- 41 Whims propel values (4)
- 42 Drinks incite kiss with head to foot (7)
- 43 Have singular measure of inflation in string player (5)

DOWN

- 1 Snake is escaping invasion of bacteria (4)
- 2 Ordained Edward should follow peers (6)
- 3 Force produced in body-line bowling (4)
- 4 Note's small money (3)
- 5 Diver, missing iron, gets piece of live wood (5)
- 6 Nicola, travelling, might find this useful (6)
- 7 Cedar sounds like one: but willow is (7)
- 8 Ape grotesque figure (4)
- 9 Party on a duvet (5)
- 11 Thought to be very old derelict zoo covered in crushed ice (5)
- 13 Bring up root (5)
- 16 Knightly splendour not having long to yield gold (3)
- 17 Sin in company of Spanish lover, initially wooden (5)
- 18 Stone dog smashed in car (5)
- 20 Groom's English money? Yes and no (5)
- 21 Sixdooter without army regulation in America (5)
- 23 Gland requiring infusion with two metals (7, two words)
- 24 Roman river's useless after one (5)
- 26 Mole fitted with a pacemaker (5)
- 27 Passage of music with new intervening sequence (6)
- 28 Move to the right in a fit of perversity (3)
- 29 Digs, with no alternative, in Opera House? On the contrary (5)
- 30 Controls missing in facilities for speech (6)
- 32 Star trap? (5)
- 34 Wear away nail in one (4)
- 36 Function of loose change (4)
- 37 Quiet exercise around boat (4)
- 39 Scoffs cereal in centre of Sussex (3)



Solution No 3476 Fundamentally Flawed by Monk

Corrected misprints in clue order spelt out the question: WHO SAID "I HAVE HAD A DREAM, PAST THE WTT OF MAN..." (in ODGM, the answer to which is BOTTOM (end of Act IV, Scene I, AMND), with "thereafter, it's UP to you" in the preamble suggesting "BOTTOM UP", giving the two possible forms of treatment of all down lights (ie. half the entries): (a) the BOTTOM moved UP in 12 lights, eg (24) STCOI for STOIC and (b) synonyms for, or definitions of, BOTTOM turned UP in six lights, eg (11) SCPMURTIUS for SCRUMPTIOUS. The single unchecking in all type-(a) lights ensured unique location of their shifted (always checked) letters. The winner is Mrs J. Wild, of Sonning, Berkshire. Runners-up: R. Bell, of Hampton, London; D. A. T. Miller, of Belfast, Northern Ireland; L. A. Payman, of Middlesbrough, Cleveland; R. C. Bell, of Helston, Cornwall; J. D. H. Mackintosh, of West Wickham, Kent.

BRIDGE by Robert Sheehan

THIS tough defensive problem is from one of the early matches of the 1998 BBL Premier League. The event is important both in its own right and as part of the selection process for the British team for the 1999 European Championship.

Dealer South: Game all IMPs

♠	Q 10 5 2		
♥	Q 10 8 7 2		
♦	A K 5 4		
♣			
♠	J 9 8 4 3		
♥	J 8 5 4 3		
♦	9 8		
♣			
♠	A		
♥	J 10 2		
♦	A Q J 10 9 8 4 3		
♣			

S	W	N	E
2 C	Pass	2 H	Pass
3 C	Pass	3 D	Pass
5 C	Pass	6 C	All Pass

Contract: 5♣ Clubs by South. Lead: the nine of diamonds

These North-South cards are difficult to bid. Many pairs finished in 3NT, and there is no disgrace in that. But Six Clubs has better than a 50 per cent chance. If West does not lead a diamond, after cashing the ace of hearts and playing on trumps declarer can use a diamond entry to ruff one round of hearts. If that does not produce the king, he can fall back on the diamond finesse. When North-South bid to Six

Clubs after the above sequence, West found the best lead of a diamond. Declarer took the ace, crossed to the ace of spades and played on trumps. East won the second round and returned a trump, and now declarer ran off his trumps, coming down to a three-card ending in which dummy had Q 10 of hearts and the king of diamonds, and declarer the ace of hearts and J 10 of diamonds. East had to discard from K x of hearts and Q x of diamonds. Whichever red suit he unguarded, declarer could cash the high card in that suit and enter the other hand to cash the now established winner.

The article I read suggested that East could have beaten the contract by returning a heart when in with the king of clubs. At that point East knew declarer had started with eight clubs, J10x of diamonds (West's lead was the nine), and the ace of spades. Thus he could not have more than one heart and so a heart return would break up the criss-cross squeeze.

However, that still would not be good enough. Declarer's only chance is that East guards both majors as well as the diamonds. Now, in the three-card ending, dummy keeps the major-suit queens and the king of diamonds, and declarer has J 10 of diamonds and a club. East cannot keep both major-suit kings and Qx of diamonds. And it is also easy for declarer to read — if one of the kings has not appeared, he has to play to the king of diamonds hoping the queen will fall.

WORD ANSWERS

Answers from page 36

REUNE

(a) To hold a reunion. American colloquialism. A back-formation from reunion.

SAUGRENU

(c) Absurd. The French word. "If we take 'chevalier' as addressed by Christ to the poet, do we not get merely a retort — frigid and, by reason of the historical association, a little saugrenu?"

PABLUM

(c) Proprietary name of a children's

breakfast cereal. Used figuratively.

PLOSHCHADKA

(c) In Ukrainian sites of the neolithic period, a raised area or platform, of burnt clay from the debris of collapsed buildings. The Russian word means ground or platform.

TWO BRAINS

Answers from page 36

Question 1
112, 105. The numbers alternately increase by nine or decrease by seven.
Question 2
James I. All the others were violently deposed.

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

THE chess events at the second Mind Sports Olympiad held at the Novotel in West London at the end of August attracted three British grandmasters: Stuart Conquest, former British champion James Plaskett and Aaron Summerscale, who captured the gold, silver and bronze medals respectively. An interesting entry came from the entire Ukrainian Ladies team, who collected several medals.

One of the most attractive games was played by Times reader Alexander Baron, who was kind enough to send me the following. White's opening play is overambitious and Black deftly demonstrates the continuing truth that unsupported wing activity is best refuted by a central counter-punch. The real pleasure to be obtained from this game, though, is Black's sparkling conclusion with sacrifice of bishop and queen to force checkmate.

White: Yasser Tello; Black: Alexander Baron
Mind Sports Olympiad 1998
Sicilian Defence

1 e4 e5 2 Ne3 Ne6
3 Nf3 d6

There are only two ways for Black to take advantage of White's sequence and prevent d4. One is 3... e5 and the other is 3... Nd4. But it is better to stay in the main lines.

4 d4 cxd4 5 Nxd4 Nf6
6 Be4

A direct method of attack favoured both by Bobby Fischer in his day and also by Nigel Short.

6... e6 7 f4 Be7
8 f5

White is imbued with aggression but safe and sound is 8 Be3.

8... d5

The traditional counter-thrust to a mistimed wing attack is to react in the centre.

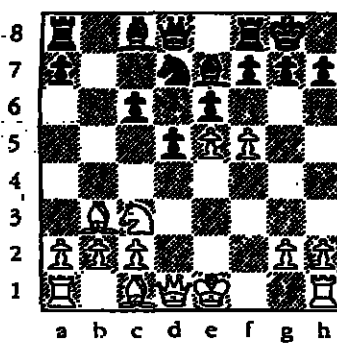
9 Bb3

White still dreams of blasting his way through to the black king. Instead, the moment had come to cut his losses with 9 exd5 exd5 10 Bb5.

9... 0-0 10 Nac6 bxc6
11 e5

Utterly consistent, but Black is well able to weather the storm.

11... Nd7



What White now tries has a hint of desperation although it could easily prove dangerous.

12 f6 gxf6
If now 13 Bh6 Nxe5 14 Bxf8 Bxf8 with more than adequate compensation for the loss of the exchange. This, though, was probably White's best chance.

13 exf6 Bxf6 14 0-0 Kh8
15 Qe2

The wrong square. White should hurl his forces into a direct attack by means of 15 Qh5.

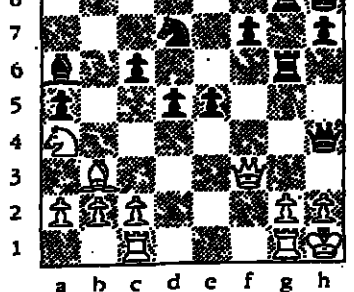
15... a5 16 Qf3 Bx6
17 Rd1 Rg8 18 Bf4 e5

White has run out of steam.

19... Qe7 20 Na4

White had no choice but to sacrifice with 20 Bxd5 cxd5 21 Nxd5.

20... Rg6 21 Racl Rag8
22 Kh1 Bh4
23 Bxd4 Qxd4 24 Rg1



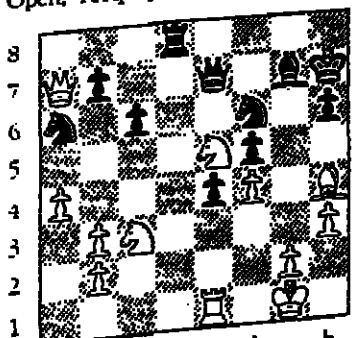
Black's combination to force checkmate is both efficient and beautiful.

24... Be2
25 Qxd2 Qxd2
26 Kxh2 Rh6+ White resigns

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Hodge v Marsh, Major Open, Torquay 1998. Can you see



White's clever tactic which led to a decisive material gain?

The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Stanton Society. Answers, on a postcard please, addressed to: Winning Move competition, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The answer will be published next Saturday.

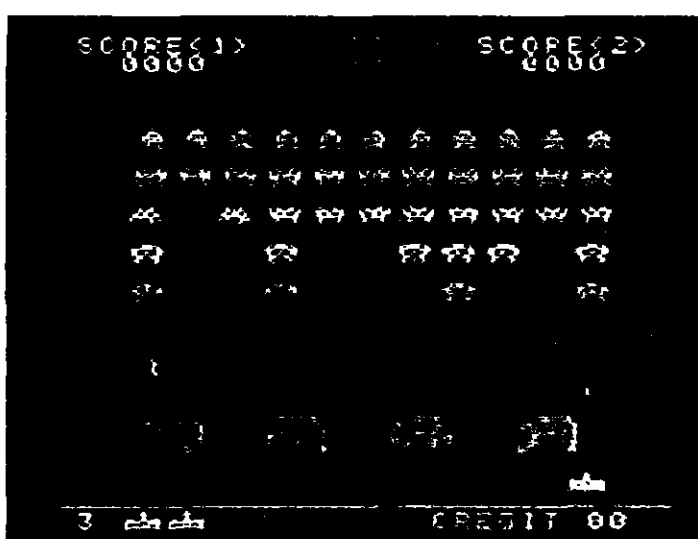
Solution to last week's competition: 1 Qxg4

The winner is Rafa Mohol Kamil, of Southampton, Hampshire.

THE FIRST wave of computer game fever arguably swept Britain in the late 1970s, with the arrival of Space Invaders. Before that we did have game consoles in the home, but they were so basic that today's younger generation cannot understand how we coped.

The early consoles plugged into the television and delivered, in essence, just one game with minor variations on a monotonous theme. It was a form of telly tennis, in which you batted the oversized, ricocheting cursor around the screen. There were two drawbacks to this sitting room invader. First, the entertainment was so dreary that it was only marginally more gripping than Crossroads, the Midlands motel television soap. Second, if played too much for too long the game images burnt into the screen leaving faint, but ever-present shadows. It was clear that a game-breaking breakthrough was needed and soon enough it arrived, gripping this nation along with most of the others around the world.

When Space Invaders hit Earth it was a phenomenon. It was fast and exciting, a real white-knuckle experience. Those who lasted longest on a Space Invaders machine in the pub were revered as demigods and



Space Invaders tested the skills of the first generation of players

were bought drinks all night long. Lines of invaders marched in crab-like descent on to our planet and you had to dodge their shots, then wipe them out — or be killed. Two decades on, Space Invaders is set to return. So far the game has reportedly netted \$500m for its Japanese owners, Taito. Now it has earned even more, with Activision

slashing out an undisclosed amount for the rights to the game throughout the world (except Japan). With such a surge of interest in the 1970s, I would not be at all surprised to see a return of Ziggy Stardust and, of course, his Spiders From Mars. Watch this space.

TALKING of games deals, the

NEW SOFTWARE

IT'S A sin to tell a lie. So sang Fats Waller. It is a bigger sin to waste an opportunity. So says I.

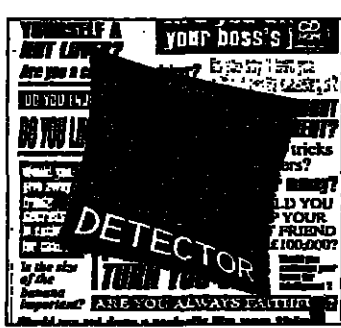
The ability to lie successfully, or not, is the basis for Blackfriday Lie Detector. The software comes with "ultra-sophisticated hardware" — which is a great lie. What you get is a length of wire, which plugs into a car's port, with two sensors on a strip of Velcro to attach to a finger. This is supposed to monitor invisible increases in emotion-triggered perspiration, and thus calculate the honesty of your answers.

You feel a slight tingle in your finger and numbing of the mind as you answer successive questions with yes or no answers. Are you jealous by nature? Are you stubborn? Are you scared of spiders? Answers appear on a mapping graph with peaks in the red zone indicating you are telling porkies. I said I was scared of spiders which is true — if embarrassing to admit here — yet the Lie Detector told me that I was not.

The truth is, this could have been so much more inspired. An ingenious espionage caper could have been built around the detector, perhaps with players assuming the role of a double agent being interrogated in the trademark blinding light. Anything would have been better than: "Do you wash often enough?" Verdict: 5 out of 10. Want the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth? It stinks! £19.99.

YOUR correspondence over the years has shown that many readers enjoy oriental parlour games such as mah-jong, so you are in for a treat with Mahjongg Master.

This "mah-jongg" is a shape-matching game. To play you must



Lie detector: sophisticated (?)

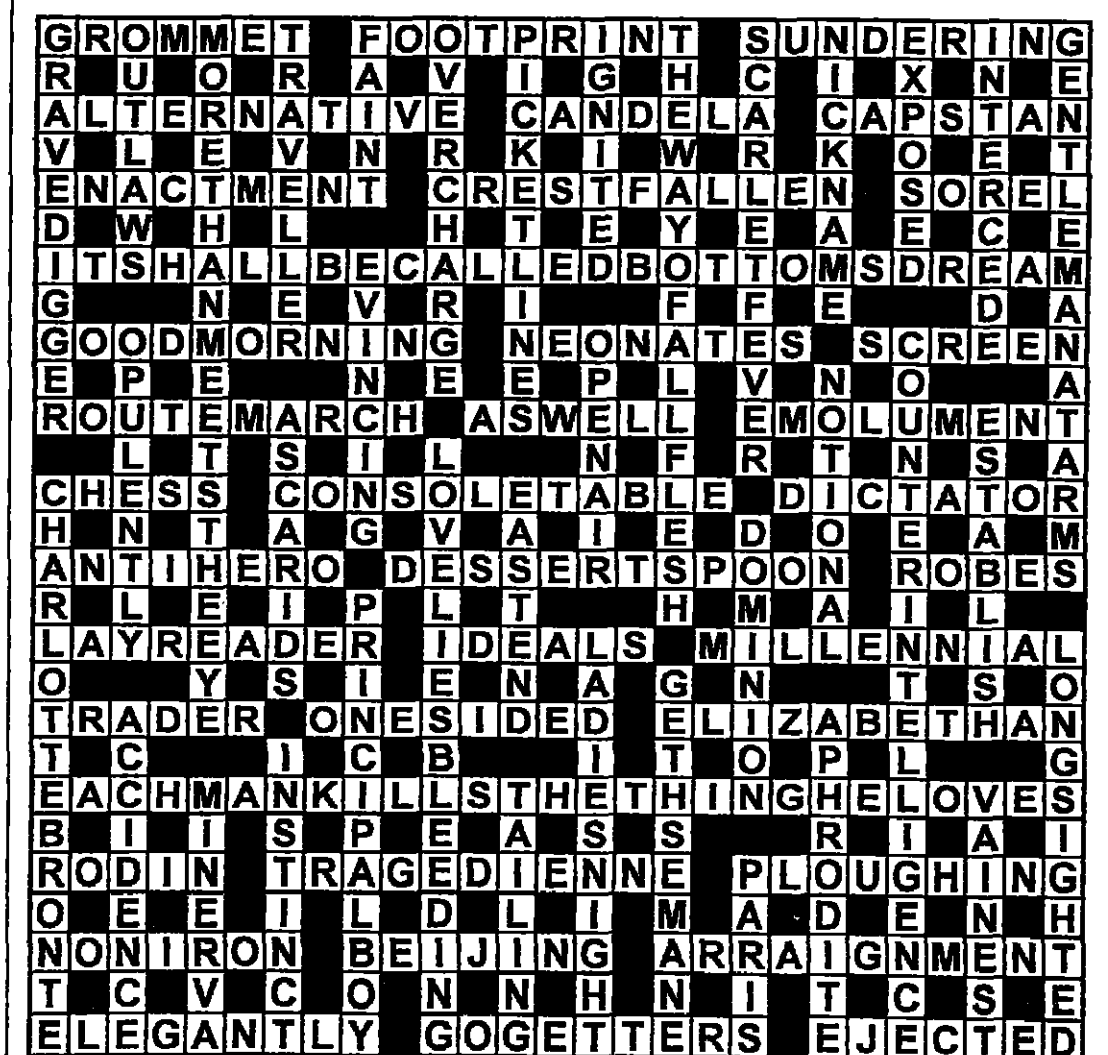
find pairs of tiles showing identical symbols. The tiles are arranged on several levels — like a small, flat pile — and only those on outside edges can be taken.

Here you get 18 tile sets and 70 backgrounds. The title makes a fine change to that other compelling time-waster, computer solitaire. The music is minor but pleasingly palatable: oriental sounds peppered with gentle rock beats. This can also be switched off.

As engaging for total novices as for mah-jong veterans, the hint button explains the simple rules. Some themes are extraordinarily challenging, like the near-impossible tile set with backings featuring stars in the night skies — if you can do this one you really are a mah-jong master.

You can shuffle the tiles at any time to begin again. For Windows 95, the game accommodates one or two players and has four levels of difficulty. From the Galaxy Game Master Series, the title is imported here by Software Partners (for stockists, telephone 01480 466111). Verdict: 8 out of 10. If you like mah-jong, you will love this. £19.99.

SOLUTION TO BANK HOLIDAY JUMBO 182



The winners of £100 are Neil Kessel, of Stockport, Cheshire; Mr V.C. Moss, of Badminton, Gloucestershire; Mrs Jean Sweeney, of Southport, Merseyside; Mrs Mary FitzSimon, of Llanpumsaint, Wales; Mr Keith Harland, of London; Harry Smith, of Redale, North Yorkshire.

MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners, The Times, Weekend, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN

Q I have one daughter aged 12 and four sons aged ten, eight, four and 22 months. My daughter can be styled "Miss E Pullin", whatever her age, but when does "Master Pullin" become "Mr Pullin"? — Catherine Pullin, Worcester.

A Your sons are still within the traditional catchment area, which suggests that boys cease to be "Master" around their 13th birthday. However, some children find this sobriquet slightly old-fashioned and embarrassing and try to wriggle out of it earlier. One somewhat worldly youngster told me that he felt a man made the rite of passage from Master to Mr as soon as he had his own bank account. Such is the triumph of materialism over convention.

Q Recently I have read two biographies of Frances Trollope, famous Victorian authoress and mother of Anthony Trollope. Both biographies refer to her father as the Reverend Milton, a clerk of holy order. I have always understood that the correct title should be the Reverend William Milton or a clergyman as being a clerk in holy orders. Frequently one reads and hears of clergy referred to as the Rev. Is this now permissible? — Cedric Parsons, Long Ashton, Bristol.



A The word reverend is an ascription and is used when addressing envelopes and when referring to him for the first time, eg. the Reverend Phineas Proudie. Thereafter he would be addressed as either Mr Proudie or, in high church circles, by the fragrant epithet of Father. The same convention applies when starting a letter. The abbreviation of Rev is acceptable, but only in print and not in speech. As you rightly suppose, a cleric is a clerk in holy orders.

Q Both my husband and I are the first generation of our respective families to be able to send our children to public school. Our son is about to join one of the best and we are worried about how to address "grand" parents properly, who might have titles, and thus not embarrass our boy. For instance, do such people take precedence when making introductions? — Name and address supplied.

A Public schools are positively bursting with first-time families and are much less snobbish than people imagine. However, here are a few pointers to put you at your ease. With the exception of dukes and duchesses, the distinctive titles of peers, ie. marquess, earl, viscount and baron are never used in conversation. Instead they are, for instance, addressed as Lord Barseshire, with their womenfolk being consequently styled as Lady Barseshire. A knight or baronet is

for example, Sir Patrick, while his wife uses the surname and is thus Lady Palliser.

Q Some time ago you gave advice on dealing with bedclothes when staying with friends or relatives. But these days when so often duvets are used, I am not quite sure whether to strip the covers as I understand it takes some effort to put them on again. My husband and I seldom stay more than three nights and the last time I simply folded the pillow cases and bottom sheets and left the duvets at the foot of the beds, folded in half. But what is correct? — Joanne Atkinson, Spalding, Lincs.

A Duvet covers are really just padded and insulated sheets, and thus should be treated like any other bed linen. They come into contact with the sleeper and therefore should be removed in exactly the same way. No hygienically minded hostesses should disapprove.

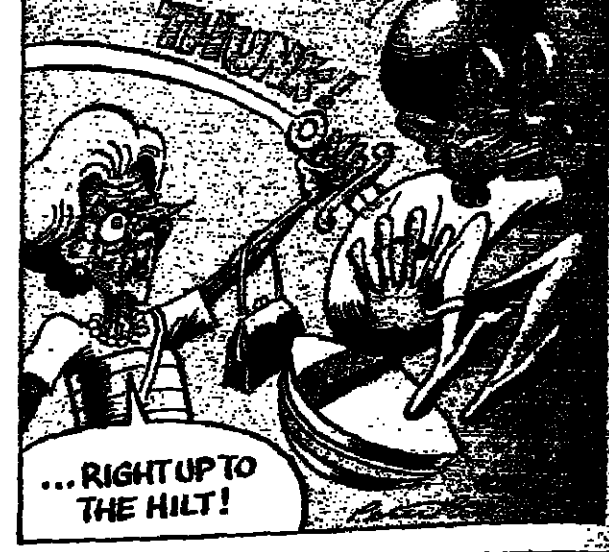
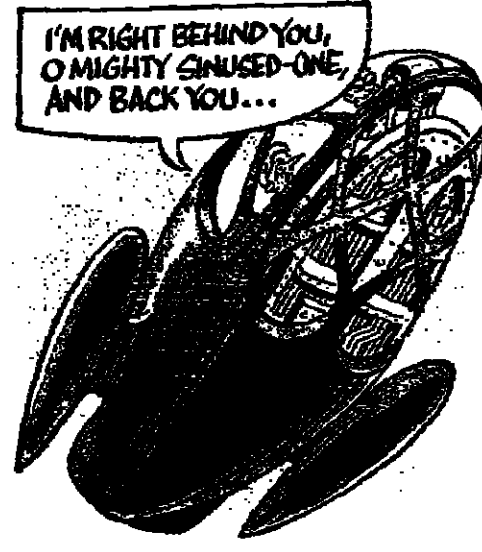
Q What is the correct use of toothpicks at table? Some people use them discreetly, with their dinner napkin as a shield. I find this practice unpleasant and would prefer that they either left the table temporarily or that they waited patiently until the end of the meal. — Beryl Rosenbaum, Pinner, Middlesex.

A Strange as it may seem, toothpicks are considered acceptable. The polite method is to conceal the tool in the rolled-up fist of the left hand, which is simultaneously cupped by the right. The impression should hover somewhere between that of resting briefly on your hands and praying. But I, too, find the habit unattractive.

Q Some friends, who live in London, are determined to keep their house impregnable to hordes of rampaging visigoths. They are extremely hospitable, so I often find myself summoned to a dinner or lunch, and on ringing the door bell find it irritating to have to stand on the doorstep listening to endless scrapings and clankings while all the various bolts and chains are removed. However security-conscious one is, would it not be a courtesy to invited and punctual visitors to let down the drawbridge prior to their arrival? — Helen Gordon, London W11.

A Having the distinct feeling of arriving at Bluebeard's Castle is not the most convivial way to begin an evening. It would be much more friendly for your friends to undo the majority of their bolts, locks and other security devices immediately prior to the arrival time of guests. In this way they would give the impression of being relaxed and welcoming hosts.

● The author is associate editor of GQ



WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

REUNE
a. To hold a reunion
b. A flood ditch
c. A Malagasy coin

SAUGRENU
a. Green butter sauce
b. Half-naked
c. Absurd

PABLUM
a. A cauliflower ear
b. A smoking chimney
c. A children's cereal

PLOSHCHADKA
a. A sable hat
b. Turnip soup
c. A clay platform

Answers on page 35

TWO BRAINS

by Raymond Keene

The Creativity Championship at the Mind Sports Olympiad, sponsored by Swindon Borough Council, set the 25 contestants a number of intriguing questions. The one that appealed to me was to describe the consequences of finding a sea of chocolate on Mars. The winner was Bruce Birchall who tied with David Bodycombe, author of the book *The Mammoth Puzzle Carnival* (Robinson, £6.99). Birchall won the gold medal on tie-break. The answer to the chocolate question that I liked best was that Belgium and Switzerland instantly joined the space race.

Question 1
What are the next two numbers in this sequence? 97, 106, 99, 108, 101, 110, 103, ??, ??
Question 2
Which is the odd one out? Charles I, James I, Edward II, Richard II, Richard III

CROSS WORDS

by Brian Greer

By all accounts, the Crossword Championship went smoothly, with Mike Laws and Richard Browne (Jumbo and Crossword Two editors respectively) standing in for me. The London regional finals were won by Peter Biddlecombe and John Green, and the national final by Alastair Sutherland, 62, a retired GP from Glasgow, averaging just under ten minutes for the four puzzles. The fastest time for any puzzle, less than four-and-a-half minutes, was achieved by John Henderson, a former champion, as a member of the audience at the final.

A reader expressed doubt about my report some time ago that Paul Henderson (no relation) had completed a puzzle in less than two-and-a-half minutes. He found it took him that long simply to fill arbitrary letters into a grid. I have to confess to being ill-informed. Mr Henderson's time was incorrectly announced as two-and-a-half minutes and this error passed into the mythology. Having checked with him, I can now state that the time was three-and-a-half minutes; moreover, because of the system used, this actually meant between three-and-a-half and four. This account is willingly corroborated by Roy Dean, who continues to hold the official world record of three minutes 45 seconds, achieved under more precisely controlled conditions in a BBC studio in 1970. As with the state of Schrödinger's cat, we will never know on which side Mr Henderson's time lay, but he is content that it stands as a remarkable feat. Mr Dean comments that he believes today's crosswords are more difficult, so his record may stand for a long time.

In relation to the most well-known Times Crossword myth, a correspondent from Eton has informed me that the school's Provost, who supposedly timed his egg by solving the crossword, was in reality "a keen but inexperienced solver, often still baffled by a clue or two at dinner time". Can anyone shed further light? ● The writer is crossword editor of The Times

PICTURE LINE



READERS are invited to guess what was said when Prime Minister Tony Blair and Minister for Trade and Industry Peter Mandelson inspected a fighter-jet cockpit at the Farnborough Airshow.

This picture will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted. Send your "speech bubble" suggestions only on postcards please — to: PictureLine, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.



Last week's winning caption (left) was submitted by Barry Stephens of Faversham, Kent.

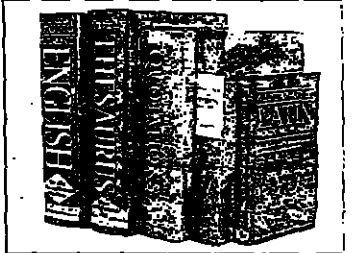
QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"It's too strong to call it an obsessive compulsive disorder." — Psychologist Oliver James on Tony Blair's love of pop music
"I am sure Michael Owen won't be surprised to learn that he is a gay heart-throb." — Boy George
"I love football and am a great supporter of who broadcast it." — Peter Mandelson, Trade and Industry Secretary
"Many imported nurses are entirely delightful, but few speak much English. Imported doctors have the same difficulty. Bit by bit, all conversations about health will have to be conducted in pidgin English with sign language." — Auberon Waugh
"One could never make love to a woman with a glottal stop." — Well-spoken art critic Brian Sewell on changing English accents
"If we lose this ballot, we could be out of office for a generation." — Tory leader

William Hague on the snap poll he is calling on the single currency
"I don't think I am writing books for people too stupid to wear their baseball caps the right way round." — Terry Pratchett, best-selling author
"I eat lamb and will continue to. I have a French mother, and food comes first and risk afterwards." — Lord Sainsbury, Minister for Science

"The report contains substantial and credible information that may constitute grounds for impeaching the President." — Spokesman for Kenneth Starr, the independent investigating counsel
"We should change the name of the town." — Citizen of Clinton, North Carolina
"We have got nothing to go on." — Policeman Nigel Baynton reporting on the theft of 30 potties from a Harrogate shop

JUMBO CROSSWORD 185



The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be a collection of five Oxford University Press titles, the world's most trusted reference books, valued at more than £100. Included are *The Oxford English Reference Dictionary* and *The Oxford Dictionary of Literary Quotations*. Entries should be sent to: The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN to arrive by September 24. The name of the winner will be published on September 26.

71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70

NAME
ADDRESS
POSTCODE

ACROSS

- 1 Pre-eminent woman of fashionable clubs featured in papers (8)
- 5 Sloth-like Prime Minister backing foreign state (8)
- 10 Unwise and timid police both stopping short to regroup (9)
- 16 How its Queen might secure her realm from the sea? (11)
- 17 Send out untrained here? The reverse (7)
- 18 Ring oil works for solvent (7)
- 19 Roman general — one with firm hold, reportedly (7)
- 20 Eglantine variant is unattractive (9)
- 21 One is stretched to offer support (9)
- 22 Watch over shelter for this type of fever (9)
- 23 Able to stretch out by quiet part of garden (9)
- 25 Fate incidentally has time to supplant power (7)
- 26 Line of Genesis — or genesis of line? (4,3,6,7,2,4)
- 32 Ring to cancel letters from America (7)
- 34 My speech may have been prompted from the wings, ultimately (9)
- 36 Volunteers abandoning university developing drug (9)
- 38 It/her gets confused for his/her (5)
- 39 Suspected pages dismissed by caution (9)
- 41 Position car for review, demonstrating various strengths in turn? (11)
- 43 Convict comparatively silly English mercenary (11)
- 44 Litter too much in loco parentis? (9)
- 45 Difficulty over mother country (5)
- 46 What the lazy are and do? (9)
- 48 Livy robbed of heart in revision of veteran historian (9)
- 50 Backing group among artists I meticulously list (7)
- 51 Enter true proverb? "A stitch ... nine" in another form, right away! (10,2,6,4,4)
- 57 Each day a skin's evenly discarded — showing this (7)
- 59 American volume with answer to Timothy, letter by letter (9)
- 61 Turner's shaken after almost terrifying experience (9)
- 64 Lover like Robin — and Marian, too, oddly (9)
- 65 Musical composition prize for French state (3-6)
- 67 Design seen in torn old clothing (7)
- 68 Temperature — with illness following (7)
- 69 For instance, anyone initially born middle of eighty-six is about to be this (7)
- 70 Geographical arrangement's not good for islands (11)
- 71 Short poem on god that has lines all in one part (9)
- 72 Mostly fake new leather (8)
- 73 Tease the silly one like Oscar Wilde (8)

DOWN

- 1 Regular feature of occult rites (9)
- 2 Between school vacations introducing one for stopgap (7)
- 3 Natural beauty of the Needles? (9)
- 4 Refuse Roman general taking on German leaders (7)
- 6 Sipped, say, cocktail giving unpleasant feeling in the stomach (9)
- 7 Period of change points to a long time with first wife (3,5,3)
- 8 Going up by route, not all of it main artery (5)
- 9 Reading's eastbound platform is shorter than longest expresses, at first (7)
- 10 Love song — on a streetcar named desire, presumably? (1,4,2,5,2,3,9)
- 11 Lie detector to work steadily without old chart (9)
- 12 Boat that sometimes goes to Havana (7)
- 13 Thus opening up parking in this place where we live (11)
- 14 Talk deal with accepting new source of energy (8)
- 15 Sweet memory inspired this poetic line (3,2,5,5,3,3)
- 24 Defend author giving shelter to dishonourable chap (9)
- 27 Keen-sighted girl getting round smashed age (7)
- 28 Pull down girl's cloak (9)
- 29 Without question, play particular character generating real existence (9)
- 30 Mediocre dancing role making chart entry (9)
- 31 Supply help in sound fornication (8)
- 32 Top room is getting marks for elegance of style (8)
- 33 Russian writer left nought in Vermont, curiously (9)
- 35 Take turns running Asian region (9)
- 37 Rock salmon, apparently one that contains poison (9)
- 40 One who is religious teacher (9)
- 42 Limits stitch that is universal (7)
- 47 Shining example of a preserving process (11)
- 49 Set out to make people cross (11)
- 52 Returning affection (9)
- 53 Mongol conqueror taking safer route? (9)
- 54 Food intake — cutting mass will make no difference (9)
- 55 Travelled on bus to follow chosen conductor (9)
- 56 Main source of plant growth in summer is temperature (8)
- 58 With flaws soundly celebrated in legend (7)
- 60 Like some waitresses don't put as much cream on? (7)
- 62 Fish scrap done up with a dash of ketchup in dish (7)
- 63 Mean woman is in the latter part of life (7)
- 66 Top band of jewellers (5)

THE TIMES CROSSWORD

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21

No 1509

- ACROSS
- 4 Fulcrum (5)
 - 7 Unaltered, unusual (8)
 - 8 Rock grains; to polish (4)
 - 9 Hamlet's mother (8)
 - 10 Abolish (law) (6)
 - 13 Stir up (trouble) (6)
 - 14 Large number (of magician's rabbits?) (6)
 - 15 Forge (6)
 - 18 Cautious (8)
 - 19 Leave car; green area (4)
 - 20 Royal residence; a hat (8)
 - 21 Vietnam capital (5)
- DOWN
- 1 Comfort in distress (6)
 - 2 A waist-tie (6)
 - 3 Gaelic hero, has Cave (6)
 - 4 A stage (8)
 - 5 Powerful (disease, hatred) (8)
 - 6 Innate skill (6)
 - 11 Multi-signature request (8)
 - 12 Largest UAE sheikhdom (3,5)
 - 14 Seat on elephant (6)
 - 15 Grave, formal (6)
 - 16 Contaminated (6)
 - 17 Barrier for jumping over (6)
- SOLUTION TO NO 1508
ACROSS: 2 Pangloss 6 Hussar 8 Bundle 9 Outback 10 Garth 12 Tub-thumper 16 Gregarious 18 Video 20 Sidings 21 Walnut
DOWN: 1 Cumulus 2 Prelude 3 Grudge 4 Order 5 Sethe 7 Sabotage 11 Artifice 13 Pharisee 14 Luggage 15 Avowal 17 Robust 19 Delft

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